ADDIS ABABA (R) — Somalia's rival warlords, dashing hopes of peace for their stricken country, have failed to find common ground to meet face-to-face and will return home on Sunday, a senior negotiator said Saturday. "We were unable to agree. We are leaving for home Sunday;" said Mohammad Qanyare Afrah, chairman of the United Somali Congress (USC). The congress is allied to warlord Ali Maladi Mohammad, who controls part of the Somali capital, Mogadishu. His bitter rival is Mohammad Farah Aldeed, whose militia controls another swathe of territory. Talks in the Ethiopian capital have focused since last week on trying to get Mr. Ali Maladi and Gen. Aldeed to meet face-to-face. "Andeed wanted to review and amend some of the articles in last march's Addis Ababa (peace) accord, but we felt that there was no need to fiddle with it," Mr. Afrah. He said the accord was an outcome of consensus of the Somali people and no one had the right to change it. Gen. Aideed's group was expected to give its own version on Sunday of the obstacles to holding face-to-face talks.



Jordan Times

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Majali in Tokyo

TOKYO (AFP) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali arrived here Saturday for an eight-day visit, officials said. The main purpose of his Japan visit is to atteod a board meeting of the Tokyo-headquartered United Nations University. While in Tokyo, the prime minister, who is also foreign and defence minister, will meet Japan's Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa (Trade with Malaysia, see page 3).

Hekmatyar transfers powers to deputy

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's hardline Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has transferred his state powers to his deputy in the Hezb-e-Islami party, Qazi Amin Waqad, the official Kabul Radio reported on Saturday. President Burhanuddin Rabbani had approved Mr. Hekmatyar's action, the radio said. It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Hekmatyar had resigned from the post be took up this year

Men attack weekly's offices in Sanaa

SANAA (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen Saturday riddled the offices of a newspaper here with bullets; after it had published details of an alleged plot to kill Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh, reporters said. The attack caused material damage, but no casualties were reported. The weekly Sawt Al Ummal, organ of the country's trade unions and close to Mr. Beedh's Yemen Socialist. Party (YSP), said "senior officials" in Sanaa were thought to have offered a \$7.2 million reward for the assassination of Al Beedh;

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Chances of Rabin-Arafat self-rule deal seen good

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli officials said yesterday they expected progress to be made in resolving outstanding differences over Palestinian autonomy at a key meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman (PLO) Yasser Arafat in Cairo today.

However, unrest in the occupied territories threatened to disrupt implementation of the Sept. 13 Israeli-PLO accord, under which Israel is to start pulling troops out of the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho on

Monday.
Israeli Housing Minister Benyamin Ben Eliezer said both sides had compromised on most problems blocking implementation of Palestinian self-

The meeting between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat "shows that compromises were reached on most of the questions noder dispute," the minister said on Israeli radio.

Israeli Ambassador to Egypt
David Sultan said the meeting
would contribute to "the removal of the obstacles blocking
implementation of the autonomy accord."

Mr. Rabin would meet

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday before his talks with Mr. Arafat, which are due to start at around 4:00 p.m. (1400 GMT) at the possible two-week delay in implementation. Mr. Arafat has said the identifier in spored

the deadline is sacred.

The Palestinians have complained that Israel is offering a troop redeployment rather than a withdrawal.

The negotiations in Egypt have also stalled over the size of the Jericho district, the issue of Palestinian prisoner releases, security for Jewish settlements and control over crossing points with neighbouring

Egypt and Jordan.

If Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat can compromise on the three big issues blocking the peace talks, it might be possible for Israel to make at least a symbolic gesture on the ground in Gaza and Jericho Monday.

The two old enemies would then be able to tell their increasingly sceptical peoples that despite the legacy of a century of conflict, they are sticking to the timetable for Palestinian self-rule set in their

Sept. 13 peace accord.

The crucial issues that have defeated lower-level negotiators are the size of the area around Jericho on the West Bank to be evacuated who should control border crossings between Egypt and Gaza and Jordan and Jericho and how much land the Israeli army needs for security installations around Jewish settlemeots in

The PLO said Saturday settlements in the occupied territories threatened the implementation of the self-rule

It also condemned the killing of three Arabs by settlers in the West Bank on Friday.

"This escalation... seriously threatens the peace process and confirms again the danger of the existence of settlements to the safety of the implementation of the declaration of principles," it said in a state-

ment.

The violence highlighted the oeed for international protection for the Palestinians, it

The statement was issued after a meeting of the Palestinian leadership chaired by Mr.

Arafat Friday night.

The chances of agreement may be higher than they seem from public statements. Diplomats say many of the doomladen Palestinian warnings of deadlock and nonchalant Israeli comments playing down the Dec. 13 deadline have been simple programme.

simple posturing.

Challenged on this recently, one of the negotiators exclaimed with a broad grin:

"Long live posturing."

Some Israelis have been arguing that the size of the Jericho area should not be an issue, since Israeli troops will withdraw from all Palestinian towns and villages by the middle of oext July and the Palestinian self-government will control the whole West Bank, the boundaries of "Jericho" will be academic.

The Palestinian answer, of

course, is that if the size of the area is oot an issue, Israel should concede the full 370 square kilometres the PLO is demanding

demanding.
Control of the border crossings is tougher The declaration of principles signed in September provides for a five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule during which Israel keeps responsibility for "external security" and "foreign relations."

(Configured on page 3)



The mother of Palestinians Sahdeh and Mohammad Falaftah grieves during their funeral in Tarkamiyah Kriday. The two Palestinians and

in Kharas in a wave of killings (AFP photo)

Most of Safeway blaze casualties out of hospital

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Most of the 359 people who were hospitalised Friday after fire broke out at the Safeway department store were released Saturday and the majority of the casualties who are still in hospitals are in good condition. Civil Defence Department officials said.

Only eight victims of Amman's worst fire in nearly two years are in "serious conditions." they said.

tions," they said.

The officials, who asked out to be identified by name, confirmed that most of the casualties, who were rushed to va-

rious hospitals when fire erupted at the entrance of the building, were suffering from smoke inhalation and injuries sustained during the stampede that developed when panic-stricken shoppers crammed the gates of the cement, mostly closed structure.

Over 1,000 shoppers were reported to have been trapped at the largest department store in the Kingdom before they were evacuated by fire men health workers, volunteers and security officers. Thousands of people frequent the store daily and Fridays are its busiest

days.

A special committee is still

investigating the causes of the fire which initial reports blamed oo a short circuit which occurred in the "iceman" placed at the entrance of the building to mark the Christmas season.

Safeway owners Zahi and Zaher Al Masri said the store was in compliance with all safety measures required by law and that the alarm system, fire boses and emergency lights and exits were in order when the fire broke out at about 6.55 p.m.

"They all functioned properly," said Zahi Al Masri.

(Continued on page 12)

Abu Nowar: Jordan-PLO economic pact possible this month

By Rana Sabbagh

Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestice Liberation Organisation (PLO) might sign an ecocomic cooperation accord later this month to regulate links between Amman and an emerging Palestinian entity. Jordao's acting prime minister said on Saturday.

said on Saturday.

Amman signed an accord with Israel on Dec. 1. It sets terms for reopening over 20 branches of Jordanian banks in the West Bank, closed down after Israel occupied the area from Jordan during the 1967 Middle Fast war.

Middle East war.

Acting Prime Minister Maan
Abu Nowar said PLO leader
Yasser Arafat told Jordanian
officials during a visit to Amman last week he might return
after this Dec. 15 visit to Bri-

tain.
"There was agreement in principle to look into possibilities of signing the economic accord after Dec. 15.... maybe it will be signed in the latter half of this month," he told Reuters.

Mr. Araft met King Hussein (Continued on page 3)

Thanks from SAFEWAY, page 7

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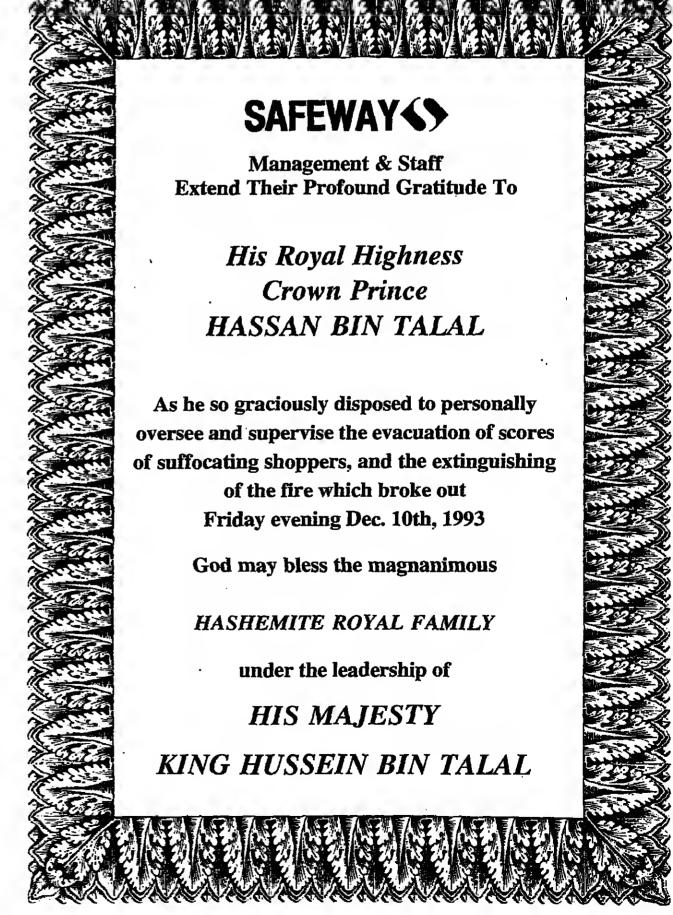
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For many settlers, moving back to Israel a possibility

MAALE EFRAIM, occupied West Bank (AP) — The offer of a government-subsidised house for the equivalent of \$40,000 and the hreathtaking view over the Jordan Valley lured Soli Ovadia to this Jew-

isb settlement 14 years ago.
Last summer, just before
news broke that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) made a secret deal on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied lands, she deepened her commitment hy paying the equivalent of \$60,000 for a shop in a little mall.

Now, with bloodletting on the rise and the future in-

creasingly uncertain, Mrs. Ovadia is having second

"The shootings are starting to get closer to us, if there are more... I will have to leave, said Mrs. Ovadia, 40, standing behind the counter of her household goods and toys

Mrs. Ovadia isn't like the settler zealots who have dominated the TV screens with their violent street protests, vows to torpedo the Israel-PLO accord and plans to bring down the government.

But she represents a sizeable group among the 125,000 set-tlers. Tens of thousands moved to the occupied lands so they could afford a bigger house nr raise children in a close-knit community, not because religious fervor pushed them to reclaim God's promised land for the Jews.

About 70 per cent of the settlers are secular and 30 per cent religiously observant.

Now that Palestinian antonomy looms, many secular settlers are considering moving back to Israel. A poll this week indicated more than half would leave in exchange for compensation, compared to about one-fifth of the religious Jews.

Haim Aviv, "mayor" nf Maale Efraim, said most of the 4,500 settlers would move back to Israel if ordered by the government, although with a heavy heart.

"I will not lie on the road. I will not burn tyres. We have told the government we will not be an obstacle," said Mr. Aviv. 46, a lieutenant colonel in the army reserves.

Some settlers have already asked for government help to move back. They can't leave because home prices are falling in the settlements and rising in

"People have tried to sell their apartments and nobody will buy," said Yossi Katz, a legislator in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rahin's Labour Party. Mr. Katz, suhmitted a hill this week that would offer any settler willing to move back either compensation or one of thousands of government-owned homes standing empty in remote areas.

Mr. Katz said he has been approached by scores of fami-lies. Batya Sela of Maale Efraim asked Cahinet Minister Shulamit Alnni for help. "We dnn't want to be guinea pigs for the next five nr six years,

Mrs. Sela wrote. Ms. Aloni asked Mr. Rahin to set up a compensation fund, but Mr. Rabin won't commit himself, butb hecause the stated government policy is that settlements should remain for at least five years and because the issue is explosive.

If Mr. Rabin promised com-pensation to all settlers now, he would signal the Palesti-nians that Israel will give back all occupied lands. If he limited compensation to certian settlements, be'd be giving away his secret vision of Israel's final

Some in Mr. Rabin's Labour Party say the government can't afford billions of dollars in

compensation.

"Once they were paid to go there, and now they should be paid to go back?" said Ephraim Sneh, a legislator and former West Bank military governor.

Ideas are emerging in Labour, though they are far from being official policy, to give settlers a choice at the end of the five years of moving to Israel or staying on under Palestinian rule. This would absolve the government of the potentially divisive task of up-

rooting settlements.

Mr. Aviv said he would rather know what's in store. even if he doesn't like the answers, uncertainty will only produce more violence from both sides, he said.

Over the past week, Palestinian militants killed two settlers in drive-by shootings and scriously wounded a third, while two Palestinians were slain by settlers without apparent provocation.

"God help us if we have five yers like this," Mr. Aviv said. Mr. Aviv said his staying depended on personal safety. including Israeli control over the highways leading to Jerusalem, 40 kilometres away, and Tel Aviv, kilometres away.

"If the government were to tell me that a Palestinian policeman can pull me over, I would say "here are the keys to my home, my settlement, we are all leaving," Mr. Aviv said.



DEMAND FOR 'RIGHTS: A Somali security man carries a signboard as he passes by a U.N. car during a demonstration in Mogadishu on Saturday. Several hundred U.N. security guards higher salaries, overtime and sick leave (AFP photo)

Hamas attacks are 'a message to Israel, PLO'

By Nicolas B. Tatro The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip — Ahu Ali, a leader of the Islamic underground, said Friday his group has been kill-ing Israelis to show both Israel and the incoming Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) authorities that Islamic militants were a force to be reckoned with.

Using a code name hecause he fears arrest, Ahu Ali is a member of the Izzedine Al Qassem hrigades, a military wing of Hamas named for a Syrian guerrilla leader killed in a battle with British troops in

Hamas' hrigades claim re-sponsibility for 11 of the 14 killings of Israelis since Israel and the PLO signed an accord on Sept.

"We in Hamas see the killing of Jews as an act that brings us closer to Allah," said Abu Ali, 20, who wore a hlack-andwhite checkered kaffiyeh and a sweater with a pistol poking

out. His chilling rhetoric comes while both Islamic and Jewish militants are using violence to kill a plan scheduled to start Monday to withdraw Israeli troops and hand over power to Yasser Arafat's PLO in the Gaza Sono and region of Jericho.

Wall slogans, spray-painted in blood red and signed by Izzedine Al Qassem, threaten Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "You must know that you will he nunished for all your crimes,"

said one graffiti scrawl.

Despite the rhetoric, there are indications Hamas is willing to compromise. Abu Ali said Hamas would

stop attacking civilians if the army did likewise. Since the PLO-Israel accord was signed, 41 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis,

the vast majority youths who died in clashes with soldiers. Ahu Ali, a student who spent 20 months in jail for belonging to the outlawed Hamas, said the campaign was addressed as much to the PLO

as to Israel.
"Hamas wants to prove, not only to the Israelis but to the coming Palestinians authority. that...no one can walk over us," said Ahu Ali.

A religious ruling, from militant Muslim clergy cleared the way this month for Hamas to form an alliance with dissident Marxist PLO factions. In a test of political muscle, the alliance ousted Mr. Arafat's followers from the student council of Bir Zeit University in the West Bank — a stronghold of Mr. Arafat's Fatch organisation.

Despite their rising influence, Hamas and allied oppostop the PLO-Israel agreement. In fact, they appear to be angling for authority rather than a shootout

Denktash excludes quick return to Cyprus talks

NICOSIA (R) — Turkisb-Cyprini leader Rauf Denktash said Friday that it would take weeks for a new government in north Cyprus to be ready to

resume peace talks.
"The U.N. talks cannot resume before the end of January." he told Reuters in an interview two days ahead of a general election which could decide his political future.

Dr. Denktash said the new government would "find itself in a very difficult situation internally and internationally and would need time to sort ont its approach.

He said new U.N.-sponosred negotiations with the Greek Cypriots should take place mainly on the island it-self, rather than in New York where previous rounds have been held.

Cyprus has heen divided since Turkish troops invaded in 1974 in response to a Greek-Cypriot coup aimed at uniting the island with Greece. The Turkish republic of north Cyprus declared independence in 1983 but only Ankara recog-

Dr. Denktash resigned as Lis community's negotiator in July because of Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu's public attacks on the U.N. proposals for a federal solution to the Cyprus

problem.

He has in the past declared that he would quit politics if Mr. Ernglu was returned to power at the head of the ruling National Unity Party (UBP), which Dr. Denklash founded but now opposes.

Asked if his resignation

threat still stood. Dr. De-nktash said: "Nothing is sure in politics, but I don't think they will win. The UBP has denounced the

veteran president for taking an active part in the election cam-paign on behalf of the Democracy Party.
"The president must he neutral and impartial — hut not when he is made the target

in an election campaign. Then he has the right to say something," Dr. Denktash retorted. The Democracy Party was formed by 10 rehel MPs who hroke away from the UBP last year with Dr. Denktash's sup-

The split in the UBP appears to have hroken the previously predictable mould of Turkish-Cypriot politics and the result of the election to the 50-seat parliament hangs in the balance.

Human rights improve in Morocco — Amnesty

RABAT (R) - Morocco's human rights record is improving hut ahuses continue, including police hrutality and detention of political prisoners, Amnesty International said on Friday. Representatives of the Lon-

don-based buman rights group who visited Morocco in November "confirmed that improvements in aspects of the human rights situation had taken place," Amnesty said in a statement faxed to Reuters.

The representatives "stressed that Mnrocco's failure to free prisoners of conscience and to release or resolve the cases of those who have 'disappeared' for years in secret detention remain an open sore on its human rights record." the statement added.

It said there were no longer any reports of turture in custody hnt still some cases of brutality.

Amnesty's investigators, Eliabeth Hodkin and Dunatella Rovera, had a ''positive discussion" with Omar Azziman, the minister of human rights appointed by King Hassan nn Nov. 11 in a new government of non-party technocrats.

They handed him a list of more than 500 political prisoners, including more than 150 prisoners of conscience, the statement said.

It also listed 80 Moroccans and 483 Western Saharans who had "disappeared" after arrest, "many of whom are believed to be still alive in secret detention," the statement said.

Morocco's claim to the former Spanish territory of Western Sahara is disputed by the Polisario guerrilla group and the issue is supposed to be put to a referendum supervised by the United Nations.

The Amnesty mission alsn conferred with the Consultative Council on Human Rights (CCHR), a multi-party group appointed by King Hassan three years ago.

At a news conference on Dec. 3. the CCHR denied there were any political prisoners or secret detention centres in Morocco. The group's secretary-general. Mohammad Miknu, said Amnesty reports of ahuses in Morocco were exaggerated.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nigerians urge Egypt against Babangida

Nigerians urge Egypt against Babangida

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's leading pro-democracy alliance urged Egypt Friday to reject any request for asylum from former military ruler Ibrahim Babangida, who is there with his family on holiday. "While we are aware that you reserve the right to grant or deny such applications for asylum, we would like you to know that the generality of Nigerian people whose destiny and lives he toyed with for eight years will not take kindly to your country's acceptance of his request," the Campaign for Democracy (CD) said in a letter to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. A copy of the letter was made available to Reuters. "General Babangida has a lot to explain regarding what he has done with the massive public funds and resources that passed through his hands and the many unexplained deaths and disappearances of Nigerian citizens, among many other alleged crimes against the Nigerian people," it said. There has been no official word that Mr. Bahangida has requested asylum in Egypt, where he went on Dec. I ostensibly for holiday, but the CD said it was disturbed by press reports to the effect that Mr. Babangida had told Mr. Mubarak he planned to settle there.

Turkey neke Barrani to control rebels

Turkey asks Barzani to control rebels

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has asked Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani to control rebel Kurds fighting for an independent state in southeast Turkey. Anatolian news agency reported Friday. Ms. Ciller asked Barzani, head of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), "to control separatists and terrorists in the region," it said. The KDP cooperated with Turkey last year in a drive against the Knrdish Labour Party (PKK) separatists. Turkey said last week in airforces attacked PKK bases in northern Iraq. The KDP side, the Turkish planes hit newly resettled Kurdish villages. More than 10,300 people have been killed in Turkey since the PKK began its independence campaign in 1984.

Rushdie calls on Germany to pressure Iran

COLOGNE, Germany (AFP) — British author Salman Rushdie has called on Germany to use its "close contacts" with Iran to get Iranian Muslim leaders to revoke a death decree issued against him four years ago. When the German government says that a close contacts could serve the cause of human rights in Iran, one has a right to expect concrete results. Mr. Rushdie said during a meeting with German writer Guenter Wallraft. German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told Mr. Rushdie, Thursday that Garmany was working "intensively for human rights to be respected in Iran and hy Iran." Mr. Rushdie has lived in hiding since Tehran the religious decree on the grounds that his novel, the Satanic Verses, blasphemed Islam.

Muslims in Gulf to pray for rain

RIYADH (R) - The leaders of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates called on Muslims in the two countries to pray for ratio. President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan has called on Muslims in the UAE to hold prayers for Rain on Monday while Mustims in the UAE to hold prayers for Ram on Monday while in Saudi Arabia the prayers will be held on Thursday. In a statement issued by the palace and carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. King Fahd said much-needed rain had been delayed in the desert kingdom this year. He said in line with the teachings of the Prophet Mohammad, Muslims throughout Saudi Arabia should hold special prayers "to speed up the arrival of good (rain)."

Woman killed in Afghan mine blast

ISLAMABAD (R) — A woman was killed and eight other people were wounded by a mine hlast east of the Afghan capital Kabul Friday, the official Kabul Radio said. The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said the blast occurred at Pul-e-Charkhi village, site of a dreaded prison of the previous Soviet-backed government, which collapsed early last year when guerrillas took rower after 14 years of civil wer. The radio blamed the hight on power after 14 years of civil war. The radio blamed the hlast on the Hezb-e-Islami party of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmaty-ar. rival to President Burhanuddin Rabbani. But other Afghan sources in Kabul blamed the incident on a fued between two Pashtun tribal factions, one of which backs Mr. Hekmatyar.

EC to give more relief to Iraqis

ANKARA (R) — The European Community (EC) is easing harsh winter in Iraq's mainly Kurdish north and for marsh Arabs in the south with \$7.6 million in aid, an EC statement said. The aid, together with \$3.66 million allocated in October for fuel, would complete the EC's winter programme of \$11.25 million to "discriminated populations" of Iraq. The new aid would provide mostly food supplies, and drugs, the statement said. The latest EC commitment hrings the aid given to the two populations since the Gulf war in 1991 to \$178 million, it added.

Rebels say they bombed Basra cabaret

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi rebels killed at least 16 security officers and members of the ruling Baath Party when they bombed a cabaret in the southern port city of Basra, Iraqi reposition source in Abyra, the Iraqian assumption of t Ahvaz, the Iranian provincial capital closest to Basra, IRNA said Iraq's security forces in Basra were on alert, fearing attacks by dissidents based in southern Iraqi marshlands. There was no independent confirmation of the report which gave no date for the cabaret bomhing. IRNA also quoted a source close to the dissidents as saying "popular forces" shut dead senior air force officer. Sattar Abdai Tahir in Nassiriya last week.

Lebanon asks for U.N. help on prisoners

BEIRUT (R) - Lebanon has accused Israel of mistreating more than 270 Lebanese prisoners and asked U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to intervene. Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, in a letter released in Beirut on Friday, told Dr. Ghali that Israel was torturing and mistreating its 272 Lebanese prisoners who included women and elderly and sick people. The International Red Cross and their families were barred from visiting the prisoners, be added. About 200 prisoners, said hy Israel to be followers or members of anti-Israeli groups, are held in a jail at Khiam in the Israeli-occupied zone in South Lebanon. The rest are held in Israel. Khiam prison is run by the Israeli-hacked South Lebanon Army militia.

Ashrawi quits PLO on eve of self-rule Palestinians' image in the We have an emerging author-

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank (R) — Hanan Ashrawi, who articulated Palestinian longing for inde-pendence as Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokeswoman for the past two years, quit just days before Palestinian self-rule was to begin in the occupied territories.

Dr. Ashrawi, an eloquent-47year-old professor of English literature, said she would set np a human rights commission to monitor the PLO-run selfrule authority and would not accept any posts the PLO offered her. Though she denied the move was a public protest against the

West Bank and Gaza Strip have voiced doubts about PLO leader Yasser Arafat's commitment to democracy and personal freedom.

Tunis-based PLO leadership,

Dr. Ashrawi and many other

Palestinians in the occupied

This is a unique situation.

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ity and a period of transitioo in which all kinds of mistakes can be made." Dr. Ashrawi told Reuters on Friday.

"You have a leadership which has been in exile and a people that have been under occupation... and the prospect of merging these two and creating a democratic system of government is a source of fear," she added.

came just three days before Israeli troops were due to begin withdrawing from the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip and transferring authority to the PLO.

for Human Rights - a "voice of conscience" over Palestinian

Her surprise resignation networks.

Dr. Ashrawi said she turned down the post of PLO repre-sentative in the United States and would set up the Palestinian Independent Commission

Dr. Ashrawi first boosted

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world with her reasoned statements to international news media as spokeswoman for Palestinian negotiators at the start of Middle East peace talks in Madrid in 1991.

She was sought almost daily by the international press for comments. Her perfect English, easy smile and western style of dress has made her popular with U.S. television

She gained prominence partly because Israel initially insisted on dealing only with Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

But her role, along with other negotiators, was eclipsed when Israel and PLO leaders hypassed official talks to strike a secret peace deal which is due to bring PLO leaders back to administer the Gaza Strip

and Jerichn.

Israel's creation in 1948 to a her life. Her father was involved in

She was studying at the

Born two years hefore

Christian family, Dr. Ashrawi has been embroiled in the Arab-Israeli conflict most of

Palestinian resistance to the establishment of Israel in 1948 and participated in the founding meeting of the PLO in 1964, Dr. Ashrawi said.

American University in Beirut in 1967 when Israel captured the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in war. She said she dug shelters in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebannn and began her political work there on behalf of the Palestinian cause.

An English professor at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University, Dr. Ashrawi lives in Ramallah with her husband Emile, whn is a musician and a photographer for the United Nations, and her daughters Zeina, 12, and Amal, 16.

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Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights Damascus (R) Jeddah (R) 96:99 96:35 Lamaca (1 . Dubai, Abu Dhabi R.J. Beiru New York, Amsterdam [R] 17:25 London P 18-3 Vienna (A)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

...... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF Moscow (SU Larnaca (CY ... Beirut (ME Cairo (MS DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 96:90 98:35 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ ······ Athens (F 12:45 Cairo (R

Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) Singapore, Knala Lu Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:10 Doha, Bahrain (GF)
Moscow (SU) Larnaca (CY)
Cairo (MS)

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HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

19:39 29:00 29:30 21:10 22:00 22:20 ... You Bet Your Life News in English "The Men Who Killed Kennedy"

PROGRAMME TWO

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PRAYER TIMES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfieh, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Assumeistion Tel.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Church Tel. 630851, Tel. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. Feature Film: "30 Ams Ou La Vie D'un Jouewr" 9:80 News in French nian Orthodox Church Tel. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. 652526 Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel: 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.

WEATHER

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II will be fine and winds will be southeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active

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Amman	D.
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Yesterday's high temperatures: Ar	D-

AMMAN:

Majali holds trade talks in Malaysia

UALA LUMPUR, Malaysia AP) - Jordan is keen to crease trade with Malaysia, eputy Prime Minister Anwar rahim said Friday.

Speaking to reporters after lks with visiting Jordanian ime Minister Abdul Salam Jajali. Mr. Anwar said the rdanians hoped to achieve is hy establishing more con-cts with the Malaysian Busi-

Dr. Majali arrived Friday for two-day unofficial visit while transit to Japan. Total trade between both

countries for the first fiveonth period in 1991 stood at .27 million ringgit (\$12.25 illion) and in Malaysia's

Malaysia's export to Jordan include machinery and animal and vegetable oil including palm oil. It imports chemicals, crude materials and machinery from Jordan.

Mr. Anwar, who is also finance minister, said Jordan also hoped to strengthen education links with Malaysia. There are 400 Malaysian stu-

dents studying in Jordan spon-sored mostly by the education ministry and state foundations and majoring in Islamic studies and Arabic language.

Dr. Majali also briefed Mr. Anwar on the development of peace in the Middle East re-

The Jordan News Agency,

Petra, added that Dr. Majali was also carrying a messages to Emperor Akihiro and Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan from His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent re-

> A Royal Decree was issued Saturday appointing the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Maan Abu Nowar, as acting prime minister during Dr. Majali's visit to the Far East.
>
> Another Royal Decree

appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education Saced Tell as acting information minister for Dr. Jawad Al Anani who is accompanying prime minister on his Asian trip.



Ier Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturay opens a handicrafts exhibit by the Jueen Alia Social Welfare Fund. Funds rom the sale of the items on exhibit will gn

to help needy families. The exhibit is being held at the Amman Marriott Hotel (Petra

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

rown Prince meet 2 visiting U.S.

no Class

MMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown ince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday met at the oyal Court with U.S. member of congresss slie Byron and presidential assistant for U.S. oreign aid programmes in finance and administative affairs: Larry Byron. The Crown Prince ...d the U.S. officials reviewed scopes of U.S.rdanian cooperation in science and technology d prospects for cooperation between both untries' organisations. The two guests emphaed the need for bolstering U.S.-Jordanian tween the two sides.

Ji to hold annual sales meeting

MMAN (Petra) — Directors of the sales partments of Royal Jordanian (RJ) will open in annual conference in Amman on Wednessyl The directors of 110 RJ stations around the orld will discuss RJ plans for 1994 and an annual conference of their 1902 partners and their 1902 partners and their 1903 partners are placed in the conference of their 1903 partners and their 1903 partners are placed in the conference of their 1903 partners are placed in the conference of their 1903 partners are placed in the conference of the essment of their 1993 performance. RJ earlier s year announced that it made \$30 million in erational profits in 1992. The meeting Wednes-yl coincides with the RJ's 30th anniversary.

. mnesty branch to mark eclaration anniversary

AMAN (Petra) - Amnesty International I), the London-based human rights organisan has underlined the need for promoting man rights worldwide, said AI secretary generfor the Aruman Jordan hranch Tawliq Ahu ker Saturday. Addressing a press conference in observance of the anniversary of the ilversal Declaration of Human Rights, Mr. ut Baker said that the Jordan chapter plans to sanise a festival in Zarqa on Thursday as part the activities to spread awareness of and the aning and value of the declaration drafted by United Nations 45 years ago. AI members. estimated at one million, are struggling to risform the human rights principles into reality dughout the world, added Mr. Abu Baker. He d thousands of copies of the Universal Decation of Human Rights will be distributed ring the seminars and lectures and during the rha festival on Thursday.

lecial prayers for rain on Thursday

AMAN (Petra) - The Ministry of Awqaf and amic Affairs Saturday announced that it will anise special prayers for rain on Thursday ernoon. It said that it will issue a statement of announcing the exact time for the prayers.

Interior Minister meets with visiting democracy advocates

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad Saturday received a delega-tion from the Washington-hased National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and briefed them on Jordan's democratic march. The minister reviewed the 1989 and 1993 elections and told the delegation, chaired by Lewis Manilow, that Jordan is ready to share its experience with developing countries seeking to adopt democracy. In an interview with Jordan Television, an NDI representative said that the institute cerned with the development of political democracy around the world. "NDI is very interested in continuing to gather information about political processes and hopes to continue to cooperate with Jordanians in exchanging views about the development of democracy," he said.

The delegation visited the Ministry of Interior's different departments and was briefed on the procedures taken before and during the parliamentary elections beld last month.

AFSED to assess thermal power project

AMMAN (Petra) — A team representing the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development (AFSED) arrived in Amman Saturday to conduct an assessment of the second phase of the Agaha Thermal Power Station. The assessment is needed to help determine the fund's contribution to the project. AFSED has financed several projects mainly in power generation. The team will hold contacts with officials at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the ministries of Planning and Energy and Mineral Resources.

Yajouz-Ruseifeh-Zarqa Road to be expanded

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Governor Misleh Tarawneh Saturday said that the ministry will emhark on the restoration and expansion of the Yajouz-Ruseifeh-Zarqa road as of the beginning of 1994. He said that the present road will be enlarged to accommodate heavy traffic, adding that the cost of the project will be around JD 1.3

Georgian world cyclist arrives in

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jober Lijama, a Georgian cyclist, arrived in Jordan from Lebanon and Syria and will continue his world tour, which includes other Arah states.

WHAT'S GOING ON

following listings are compiled from of the pulleting and the daily Arabic press. ders are advised to verify the listed time place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Art exhibition by artist Samia Zarou at the Open Studio "Al Marsam Al Maftuh." abal Amman, 2nd Circle (9:00-13:00 and 15:00-17:00 all days except Fridays). xhibition of handicrafts at the Marriott

hotographic exhibition by artist Basheir il-Hajeh at the Royal Cultural Centre. lastic art exhibition on the intifada and prusalem at the Professional Association omplex.

wo exhibition of paintings by Edelbert De ja Portilla and Pitr Pawluczok at the Royal ultural Centre.

xhibition of prints and drawings by Fakhr I Nissa Zeid at Darat Al Funnn of the bdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabl Luweibdeh. Also showing the permanent xhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m.

lastic art exhibition by a number of Iraqi

artists at La Casa Art Gallery (between the 5th and 6th Circles).

- ★ Exhibition of sewing equipment at the Royal Cultural Centre (11:00 7:00 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Khalid Khreis at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of watercolours by artist Shaher Jirmi at the Goethe Institute
- * Art exhibition by artist Farghali Abdel Hafiez at the Balka' Art Gallery in Al Fuheis (10:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.) (Tel.
- ☆ Plastic art exhibition by several Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Orfali Art Gallery in

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

☆ Christmas carols presentation at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ☆ Film entitled "Dumbo" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (64 minutes).
- ☆ Circussian film entitled "The Turilight of Hopes" at Philadephia Cinema at 8:30

Crown Prince says Kingdom strives towards self-reliance plus interaction in world economy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday said that Jordan would continue to strive towards self-reliance while remaining open to in-teraction with the world eco-

Speaking at a meeting with World Bank Managing Director Atillah Karaomanoglu at the Royal Court, Prince Has-san said that Jordan is working to huild a better framework for closer cooperation with other developing and Arab countries in the region.

During the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz, the two sides discussed the peace process and the difficult conditions of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

Also Saturday, Mr. Karaomanoglu discussed issues of concern to Jordan in talks with the speakers of the Senate and the Lower House of Par-

"I had the pleasure and honour of meeting with the speak-er of Parliament, and they shared with me their views about the challenges that face

Saturday.

its recom

and respected.

the sources said.

energy sector.

the ministry are highly valued

institute's advisor Yoichiro Nagtomi, will hold top-level

talks in broad terms on

Japanese-Jordanian relations.

Another team, also repre-

senting the Ministry of Fi-

nance, will also arrive this

week for discussions on the

release of an \$80 million loan to match a World Bank credit

granted to help the Kingdom's

Japan agreed to extend the-

loan during a meeting of

donors in Paris early this year.

Jordan has already received

the \$80 millon World Bank

Officials said "technical de-

The mission, headed by the

me their ideas about the best approaches to these issues both in terms of domestic policies

was very much impressed with the quality of their analysis and the realism of their approach and willingness to support the government in the difficult task

reform in Jordan without the hank's assistance.

comprehensive economic development plan covering va-rious parts of the country, said Mr. Masri. He added that the country is currently facing difficulties as a result of unemployment and the decline in the per capita income, stressing that the government was striving to encourage small and

Jordan today," said the World Bank official. They also discussed with

and in terms of international assistance for Jordan," he Mr. Karaomanoglu said he

Speaker of the Lower House Taher Al Masri told Mr. Karaomanoglu that Jordan realises the important role of the World Bank, and that it was difficult to carry out any

Jordan is implementing a



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday receives World Bank Manag-

medium size income-generating projects to deal with this

Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi briefed the guest on ing Director Millah Karaomanogh esecote from rights (Petra ohola)

Jordan's stand regarding peace, and said he hoped that the World Bank would increase its cooperation with Jor-

The speaker also pointed out that Jordan has been shoulder-

ing heavy burdens as a result of wars and political events over

the past 50 years. Afra mineral springs to be developed

By a Jordan Times tails" of the Japanese loans Staff Reporter were expected to he finalised during the delegation's visit AMMAN - Three separate The third delegation due here this week will represent Japanese delegations are expected in Amman this week for

talks on economic cooperation the Ministry of Transport and and air links between Amman expected to hold talks with and Tokyo, government and diplomatic sources said Jordanian counterparts from the ministry, the Civil Aviation Authority and Royal Jorda-The visits crown a week of nian, the national carrier, on hectic Jordanian-Japanese di-plomacy, starting with an eight-day visit to Tokyo that possibilities of beginning direct flights between Amman and

3 Japanese delegations

due to arrive for talks

Prime Minister Abdul Salam The idea of Amman-Tokyo Majali began Saturday.

The government and diflights was mooted several years ago, and both sides were olomatic sources said one of waiting for the opportune mo-ment to get into serious discus-sions and possible finalisation of an agreement, airline the delegations due here would be a "semi-government" mission representing the Institute of Fiscal and Monetary Policies of the Ministry of Finance.

"We do not think there are The institute, described as a any real problems now to go ahead and finalise a deal this think tank, is influential in shaping government policy in time around," said a senior

> There are no direct flights between Amman and Tokyo now. Passenger traffic between Japan and Jordan is expected to go up considerably in view of the progress in the Middle East peace process, where both the Tokyo government and the Japanese private sector is expected to play a major

Japan is a strong supporter of the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and is contributing \$200 million to rehuild Palestinian economy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during the five-year interim self-rule period envisaged under the agreement.

a Palestinian currency and cen-

Jordan says the principles in

the accord do not preclude

Palestinian sovereignty and

leave all options open.

But it wants a key say in

monetary and banking affairs during interim Palestinian self-

rule because over one third of

its currency is in circulation in

the West Bank and any un-

coordinated move might back-

fire on Amman's economy.

Jordanian and Palestinian

officials are increasingly un-

easy over their low level of

coordination since Israel and the PLO reached a self-rule

Under the accord, which

tral bank.

into tourist, therapeutic attraction plans for the project. The task force asked a TAFILEH (Petra) - The Afra

mineral water springs near Tafileh will soon be developed, and tourist facilities will be set up to offer better services to visitors, according to Khaled Wahoush, director of the Tourism Office in Tafileh governorate.

Mr. Wahoush said in a statement Saturday that a special Afra Springs development task force held a meeting here Saturday, under the chair-manship of Tafileh Governor Lawzi, to discuss preliminary

Jordanian firm to conduct a feasibility study on the project and to find a way to avert the springs area from being exposed to winter floods in order

to make way for the establish-

ment of the tourist facilities

and services. The project is to be financed by the Industrial Development Bank and foreign institutions, said Mr. Wahoush who gave no details about funding. The thermal waters of the

treatments for some skin disorders, rheumatism and other afflictions, said Mr. Wahoush.

The committee plans to set up chalets and huild thermal water swimming pools, while the health and the public works ministries will be setting up clinics and building roads to the Afra Springs as of the beginning of 1994, according to Mr. Wahoush,

He said that the tourist facilities should help the local economy of Tafileh.



HELPING PALESTINIAN ORPHANS: The Goethe Institute in Amman Saturday announced it is organising a concert by the Belaros Trio nn Tuesday, Dec. 14 at the Regency Palace Hntel to raise funds for the activities of the Dar Al Tifl Orphanage in Jerusalem. Their Rnyal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Princess Rania Al Abdullah are expected to attend

the concert. According to Goethe Director Dieter Glade Dar Al Tifl is a philanthropic nrganisation dedicated to the welfare of Palestinian nrphans since the massacre of Deir Yassin in 1948. He said that the trio, Jurgen Besig on violin, Albrecht Riehle, celln and Dieter Lallinger on piano, was formed in 1964 and has won acctaimed world fame

SEAFOOD CHEESE SHRIMPS, LOBSTERS FRENCH, DANISH CALAMARY CAVIAR SWISS, LOCAL SMOKED SALAMON mas & New years Eve. MEAT MORTADELLA At Dell Center COLDCUTS SAUSAGES

UM UTHINA COMMERCIAL CENTER, Tel.: 818683

Abu Nowar: Accord this month to deny the Palestinians future symbols of nationhood such as

(Continued from page 1)

last Sunday to coordinate strategy ahead of separate meetings in Amman with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. But he left Amman without signing the economic pact reached after tough discussions in October.

The joint Jordan-PLO draft agreement provides terms for reopening Jordanian hanks in the West Bank and gives the Central Bank a major say in control over credit in the territories because the Jordanian dinar would be the official cur-

rency.

Jordanian officials såid Amman has warned the PLO it would have to move ahead alone if the PLO does not ratify the accord.

Though Amman severed all legal and administrative links with the West Bank in 1988, it has not amended its Constitution to incorporate any change in the status of the territories, which have been part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan since 1950.

Mr. Arafat, some PLO officials say, is worried Israel might use the economic accord

cast a doubt over Jordan's fu-ture economic and political links with the West Bank, Israeli 1100ps should start withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho on Monday.

deal on Sept. 13.

"It has become clear that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is a joint one and any absence of strict coordination between the government and the PLO will only hurt the two peoples," Dr. Ahu Nowar

use whatever computers and

Arafat-Rabin agreement

(Continued from page 1)

electronic gadgetry they liked The Israelis say that means to monitor travellers. But he controlling who crosses the inwas determined that the offiternational borders. cial who stamped a traveller's passport should be a Palesti-

The Palestinians do not dis-pute that the Israelis have a night to vet travellers. But they The amount of land to be are determined to end the intaken for Israeli military interrogations and searches that humiliate and infuriate Palestinians crossing in and out of the occupied territories at present. A Palestinian negotiator said

stallations around settlements is more obviously open to compromise. It is clearly a matter of judgement how much of a military presence is "enough" recently that the Igraelic could

Jordan Times

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Lesson of fire

INSURANCE companies and the owners of the Safeway department store will foot the bill of restoration work at the Kingdom's largest department store after fire broke out in it Friday. But, at least, the lightness of injuries sustained by the shoppers affected and the absence of fatalities among the victims are reasons for enormous relief.

In all cases the accident provides an ample opportunity to assess the preparedness of public buildings and institutions to deal with emergencies and protect the lives and property

of citizens.

This opportunity should not be missed.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday urged the introduction of legislation that would ensure the readiness of public buildings to protect citizens at times of disasters.

Prince Hassan's call should be responded to immediately. The gravity of the danger inherent in the failure of public buildings to abide by safety measures and precautions makes any laxity in this regard a crime.

Yet such laxity does exist in enforcing the laws that require national institutions and companies to have fire fighting equipment. within reach of the public. So limited is the number of companies which train their personnel on how to use them. Laws require that all cars have fire extinguishers. But a few motorists follow the law and traffic police have long forgotten how to check them on the streets.

Many of the injuries that were sustained during the Safeway fire resulted from the stampede created by panic-stricken shoppers who rushed to the gate for escape. No one can blame them for trying to run for their lives. But blame can be apportioned on gaps in educational system whether in schools or other institutions for not training people on how to act in times of crisis and disaster.

The lessons from the Safeway fire are many.

They should not be forgotten.

The preparedness of public places to deal with crisis should be inspected on regular basis. Regulations on safety precautions should be enforced vigorously and violators should be held accountable. Civil defence courses should be made obligatory for all companies.

What is at stake here is human lives. We should not wait until people die to start implementing laws and regulations so important and so necessary to protecting our citizens. The Safeway fire should drive this point home, soon as it can.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

 ϕ_{i}

MONDAY, Dec. 13 is the date for the start of the Israeli withdrawals from the occupied Arab lands, but nothing seems to be taking place to prepare for this event, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. The Israelis continue to delay the implementation of the PLO-Israel deal, continue to impose repression through the Jewish settlers and continue to practise the iron-fist policy against the Palestinians, said the daily. Despite the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the Arab region to try to smooth the way for the resumption of the Middle East peace process, and despite the announcement that the U.S. and Syrian presidents will meet to stimulate the talks, the Israelis are continuing to show intransigence and continue to obstruct any progress towards a settlement, said the daily. Noting that the Palestinian leadership is currently embroiled in internal differences, the paper said that the Israeli leaders persist m their statements in which they declare that they will not give any concessions that might affect their country's security, added the paper. The paper said that while PLO leader Yasser Arafat is going ahead with plans to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in a futile attempt to defuse the issue, the Israeli settlers continue their drive to fortify their settlements amidst the Arab people. The paper said that the world Zionists occupied Palestine under the pretext of providing protection to the Jews living in Palestine, and they occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to ensure security for the state of Israel, and they are now trying to kill the peace process under the pretext of ensuring safety to the Jewish settlements. If the peace process is based on U.N. resolutions, said the paper, the world community should see to it that nothing should stand in the way of their application.

AL DUSTOUR daily said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher must have exerted all his efforts to arrange for a meeting between the U.S. and the Syrian presidents next month, and for the resumption of the Middle East peace talks. With these arrangements, Christopher's tour has achieved its purpose, which is to stimulate the peace negotiations especially along the Syrian-Israeli track, said the daily. There is no doubt, said the paper, that the U.S. secretary has done all that was possible to achieve this end because Washington realises that only a comprehensive peace would end the Arab-Israeli conflict that has lasted for decades. In the paper's view, Washington also realises that partial and bilateral deals can by no means bring about a lasting settlement and that there was no alternative to the implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and and 338.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

No deficit — a viable objective of a prudent fiscal policy

Sami Gammoh, minister of finance, is scheduled to present today the budget for 1994 to the Parliament. He is expected to benefit from the negative response to his earlier comments about the budget, in which case he will not again describe the budget as balanced or without deficit.

It is true that the budget listed sources uf receipts equal to the estimated general expenditure. But thuse sources include foreign aid and local and foreign borrowing, which could not be legitimately described as revenues. If the mere equality of all sources and all applications of funds in the budget is enough to describe the budget as "halanced", then all the budgets are balanced and without deficit. Funds could nor be spent unless and until they are raised out of taxes, transfers, or loans, The fact of the matter is that foreign aid and loans were

needed to cover the deficir. Jordan would not expect foreign aid and will not borrow, unless there is a deficit to finance. In this respect, it would be much wiser to define what deficit we are talking about. There is a deficit before foreign aid. another deficit before borrowing and a third deficit before both. There is a deficit after foreign aid to be covered by borrowing or after borrowing to be covered hy foreign aid, but, of course, there is no deficit after both foreign aid and

borrowing, and perhaps that is what the minister of finance

meant when he boasted that his budget is balanced and without deficit.

The deficit in the 1994 budget is actually JD 456.4 million. while the deficit after foreign aid is JD 300 million, which will be covered by domestic and foreign loans and through rescheduling. The deficit may be even higher if rescheduled interest on foreign loans is not fully accounted for in the current expenditure section.

What makes the deficit more solid is the fact that a major part of the expected foreign aid is not yet committed by identified donors, and that rescheduling of loans could not be taken for granted before Jordan is able to enact the controversial law of sales tax.

The above arguments by no means suggest that the new budget did not improve in comparison to past budgets. At least the financing section of the budger is balanced in that repaid loans equal new borrowing and financing. For the first time, the treasury will not need to borrow more than it is required to repay. Last year the budget showed fresh borrowing of JD 48 million in excess of repayments, which the capital expenditure budget needed to cover the balance of its deficit. Such deficit will be totally covered in 1994 from the surplus of current budget.

Until now Jordan used to borrow more than repay, which, meant continued growth of foreign indebtedness. Now Jordan at the turning point, where it still has to borrow, but not more than what it is expected to repay. The past situation meant continued net borrowing, 1994 budget is based on zero net borrowing and the target as of 1995 will be to shift to net repayment, i.e., to borrow less than repay.

In other words, writing off all foreign debts was not enough during the past four years, while now Jordan reached the point where it needs not to borrow any more for budget purposes if its outstanding deht were miraculously written off.

It is almost sure that the indebtedness crisis is contained as long as Jordan adheres to the economic adjustment programme, which became virtually accepted with some reservations by all responsible politicians and economists in the country. The process can be safely described as irreversible.

The structure of the new budget suggests that writing off the current external debts of Jordan will mean that Jordan will no. more need foreign aid to support its central government,

The no-deficit description used by the minister of finance is obviously a matter of words. It is not yet a reality, but it is definitely a viable objective of a prudent fiscal policy.

Leading South Africa to peace

Nelson Mandela: Symbol for freedom fighters

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela received the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday after a lifetime of struggle to end apartheid and enfranchise Sonth Africa's black

majority.

The African National Congress (ANC), leader is co-recipient of the prize with President F.W. de Klerk, who in February 1990 freed Mr. Mandela from 27 years in prison and started to dismantle the apartheid system of racial segregation.
In the violent transition to

democracy, Mr. Mandela, 75, has emerged as a voice of statesman-like moderation and the man most likely to lead South Africa's first all-race government.

On February 11, 1990 the myth was made man when he walked to freedom and began transforming the ANC from an armed liberation group to a mainstream political party.
He emerged from jail as a pragmatist, saying white attitudes towards blacks had im-

proved during his imprisonment and that the collapse of communism had cooled his port for socialism.

But he tirelessly kept up pressure on the white government to fully dismantle racial segregation. "The process towards real democracy is unstoppable," Mr. Mandela said in a recent speech.

In remarks to reporters on Thursday in Oslo, Mr. Mandela, who once accused Mr. de Klerk of caring nothing for blacks killed in township wars, said: "Mr. de Klerk and I will continue to be political opponents. I have nevertheless decided to accept the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with him as a...gesture of reconciliation." Since his release, Mr. Man-

dela has suffered poor health and personal disappointments. He was deeply pained by the breakdown of his 34-year marriage to Winnie Mandela and

the deaths of thousands of sup-porters in black factional fighting, mainly with sympathisers of the rival Zuln-based Inkatha

Friends said he grew depressed after the April 10 murder in South Africa of his colleague Chris Hani, leader of the South African Communist Party, and the death from illness soon after of his close friend and ANC associate Oliver Tambo.

But Mr. Mandela has never lost faith in the cause he devoted his life to, preaching tolerance, peace and understanding to militant township youths impatient for change.

In 1991, Mr. Mandela faced possibly his most painful trial, when his wife Winnie was convicted of leading her bodyguard in kidnapping four youths and of being an accessory to assaults.

He initially stood by her, hut they began to live apart and in April 1992 he announced their formal separation after more serious allegations were made

Since then he has been distancing himself from her and her radical speeches. Winnie was elected on Wednesday as president of the ANC's Women's League, setting the seal on her political rehabilita-

Problems with his younger wife complicated an already difficult time for Mr. Mandela engaged since he left jail in negotiations with the government and other groups on a non-racial constitution.

He has clashed frequently with the government of President F.W. de Klerk over political violence and the pace of-

Mr. Mandela was jailed for life on June 12, 1964 and disappeared hehind the walls of Robben Island prison where he broke rocks for almost 18 years until his transfer to a mainland

He refused to bargain for his release and rejected offers of liberty in exile.

F.W. de Klerk: Leader who dismantled apartheid

JOHANNESBURG (R) -President F.W. de Klerk, who received the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday with ANC leader Nelson Mandela, started to dismantle Sonth Africa's apartheid system in early 1990.

He diverted the nation's white Afrikaner population away from its obsession with segregation and dismantled the web of race laws that made up South Africa internationally reviled.

Mr. Mandela has been critical of Mr. de Klerk, saying the leader of the National Party which created apartheid in 1948 to perpetuate white rule is actually waging war against our people.

But the African National Congress leader said of Mr. de Klerk before leaving for Oslo: He has made a contribution we must acknowledge. Without him ... it would have been impossible for us to make this progress without the cooperatioo of the government of the country. To this extent, Mr. de Klerk has played a very important role.

Mr. de Klerk has apologised

only once for the deaths, the injuries and the poverty caused by apartheid and has refused to condemn its architects, who include his father and grand-

But he has committed his three million fellow Afrikaners to share the country and its government with the overwhelming black majority, a pros-pect that was unthinkable when he joined the white

cabinet in 1978. Exclusive white rule ended in South Africa on Tuesday with the installation of a multiracial Transitional Executive Council (TEC) to oversee the run-np to the country's first all-race elections next April.

White rightists have described the president as a traitor who has sold the country out of "communists" in the

Mr. de Klerk, 57, doyen of, the white Afrikaner establish ment, was known as a conservative until he became president in September 1989 and began to take apartheid apart.

In his first address to parlia-ment in February 1990, he stunned his own national par-

ty, then open only to whites, would legalise the African National Congress, free its leader from jail and scrap the policy of racial segregation it instituted on taking power in

Mr. Mandela walked free a few days later after 27 years in prison for his fight against e apartheid.

The moves ended South Africa's international isolation: and led to the lifting of sanctions, but political violence reached a new intensity and continues at a high level. The watchdog human rights commission estimates at least; 13,000 people have 'died in political violence since February,

ary 1990. The product of a prominent, Afrikaner political dynasty: that played a key role in the creation of apartheid, the urbane de Klerk rose steadily in cabinet ranks starting in the He became head of state,

after a bitter cabinet showdown with P.W. Botha, who had started to dilute apartheid. five years earlier, but refused, Mr. de Klerk is a lawyer from Transvaal, the province, at the heart of South African political power, and for years, he was identified with his party's right wing.

Mr. de Klerk began practise ing law in 1961, building his firm into one of the country's largest. He entered parliament. in 1972 and six years later became a minister.

After ousting Mr. Botha, he: led his party to its sixth straight: victory in whites-only par-September 1989 on a platform of racial justice without

Mr. de Klerk, who has two: sons and a daughter, is married: to Marike Willemse. He is a keen reader and golfer.

Reforming economist Gaidar learns political game

By Janet Guttsman Renter - -

MOSCOW — When hardline communists stormed Russia's television centre in the tense days of early October, President Boris Yeltsin was no-

where to be seen. Yegor Gaidar, balding, baby-faced and rather fat, took on the task of rallying support. In a surprise broadcast from a backup studio the first deputy prime minister appealed to Russians to take up arms to

defend the Kremlin. A "bloody, brown curtain" of fascism would fall on Russia if the communist-led revolt succeeded, he said.

Mr. Gaidar, brought back into the government days before the bloody events of Oct. 3 and 4, had long been the champion of Russia's drive to a market economy.

Now the 37-year-old economist-turned-politician hopes Russians will back him and his policies in the Dec. 12 parliamentary polls. He leads the pro-reform movement Russia's Choice and

has been a key figure throughout the election campaign. "Of course I understand that there are a lot of people who do not support the govern-ment's reforms and of course they will support the communists or parties allied with the communists," Mr. Gaidar told

Reuters in a brief interview

late last month.

But I believe in the common sense of our people... and the vast majority of them do not want to try another socialist experiment in this country this century," he said.

Mr. Gaidar was plucked from academic obscurity in December 1991 to spearhead Russia's economic reforms, aimed at transforming a communist centrally planned system to a free market economy modelled on the capitalist system of the West.

He preached the capitalist gospel at home and abroad. calling for open markets, free trade and limited state con-But the free-market piper

has changed his tune and now calls for limited protection for Russian industry and import taxes to protect vulnerable "In 1992, when shops were

bare and goods were in short supply, we lifted import restrictions for six months," he "Since last summer we have started reinstating these import

tariffs. We believe that domes-

tic markets should be pro-

tected and we can use these

tariffs to raise some additional revenues. The economic reforms over the last 23 months have thrust millions of Russians below the poverty line and raised the spectre of mass unemployment if new bankruptcy laws are allowed to bite and uneconomic factories are forced to

Prize certificates they won for peace at a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden (AFP photo)

African National Congress leader Neison Mandela (left) and South African President F.W. de Klerk Friday show the Nobel

But Mr. Gaidar said reforms had brought positive results.
"Russia is no longer an economy plagued by shortages." he told a recent news conference. "The Russian economy is now an open economy, our trade balance is positive and we are building up foreign exchange reserves.'

Mr. Gaidar's pro-market line won him enthusiastic backing from western leaders. "Our people were very impressed with Gaidar," said one Moscow-based western diplomat, summarising Mr. Gaidar's performance at international meetings' in April 1992.

The West offered Russia billions of dollars of aid, but the assistance did not come through fast enough to staunch a rising tide of opposition at

Mr. Yeltsin sought a compromise with unlikely new allies, the "red barons" of the former Soviet industrial lobby. as they moved hack to the corridors of power in the second half of 1992.

Hardliners bayed for the blood of the radical govern-ment team and Mr. Gaidar, then acting prime minister, was forced out of office in December of that year.

Liberal media, indeed

By Janet Kersten

Intrigued by all the right-wing hoo-ha about the "liberal media" in America, I began to wonder who these devilishly elusive people are who have such tight control over everything I read, listen to and view: who influence my life without my even being aware of it.

As a lifelong news junkie absorbed in all things political. I grew more and more curious about this insidious influence that, we are warned, is more dangerous and pervasive than kudzu or killer bees, So I decided to conduct a

survey, unscientific to be sure. but probably no more so than those dune by pollsters who slant their questions to elicit the responses desired. For two munths I noted - in all the media that crossed my path ---. every commentator's and uped writer's name, identification and point of view.

I subscribe to three daily national newspapers (New York Times, Wall Street Journal. USA Today) and 10 magazines: I huy other periodicals. and I listen to local and network TV and radio. Additionally, since I travel in my work. I noted names and viewpoints of syndicated columnists published in various local newspapers. To avoid skewing results. I did not include avowedly idenlogical publica-tions like the National Review (right) or The Nation (left). I am now prepared tu name

names. Of the 7.3 pundits encountered. care to guess how many were liberal? Would you believe three? That's right. count 'em, rhree. Hardly enough to frighten women and children and undermine gov-

ernment policy.
There were others — 12 whom I would describe as moderate. not knee-jerk in either direction. left or right. but willing to criticise actions or policies be they Democratic or Republican. In the old, prepolitically correct days, we used to call such people objec-

That left me with 58 writers and commentators whose views were consistently and unnhashedly right uf centre. frequently knee-jerk.

What amazed me is how prolific they are. Not a day goes by that they aren't hammering their agendas on the air or tube, or as syndicated columnists across the United

States. Lest you think I have made this up ("I have in my hand a list"), herewith are some of the names I encountered in the media in my two-month pro-

Conservatives/Right-wingers: Roger Ailes. Par Buchanan. Christopher Buckley. William Buckley. Rowland Evans. Brit Hume. James J. Kilpatrick, Jeffrey King, Ed Koch, Charles Krauthammer, William Kristol, Irving Kristol. G. Gordon Liddy. Rush Limbaugh, Mury Matalin, John McLaughlin, Lynn Martin, Novak. Norman Podhoretz. Dorothy Rabinowitz, Michaeli-Reagan. Sheldon Richman. Auc. R. Rosenthal. William Safirezi. Harry Schwartz. Curtis Sliwa. .: John Sununu, George F. William Lally Weymouth. Pete Wil-in

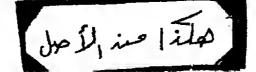
Moderates/Centrists: Sam : Donaldson, Elizabeth Dreway Jack Germond, Ellen Goodman, Jeff Greenfield, Albertes R. Hunt, Michael Kinsley, et Mary McGrory, Cokies Roberts, Daniel Schorr, Market Shields. Nina Totenberg. 213

Liberals: Anthony Lewis In Anna Quindlen, Carl Rowams Liberal bias? Who's kidding whom? Here's another mythe: dreamed up by the scare artistic? of the right.

Unfurtunately, it has been in charged and repeated so oftenas like a mantra, that peuple who? do not do a head count believet? it - which is exactly then? meretricious impression the: 7 right-wing clamour is intended: to cause.

We're talking individuals29 here, but then there's the nwiters ership of our media, such base? tions of "liheral" thought is General Electric (NBC)-15 Capital Cities (ABC), there Tisch Corp. (CBS). Ted Tur "1 ner (CNN), to say nothing ofra Time/Warner and inher multiple, media conglumerates. Liberates media" indeed.

The writer is a business-travel writer based in Connecticut. This article is reprinted from the Stanford Ach ocute:



Can Arabs and Jews coexist?

By Norma Holmes

ASHINGTON - What will t take to bring Arabs and Jews ogether? What obstacles imbede their coexistence?

Two members of the only negrated Jewish-Arab village in Israel are in the United States this week to present an xample of the success of one 13-year-old Israeli community, located 40 kilometres from

Adnan Mana'a and Bob Mark, long-time teachers and experts in coexistence who founded the Neve Shalom/ Wahat al Salam (Oasis of Peace) residential village for Palestinian and Israeli families. say interest in their project has nushroomed in Israel and the occupied territories since the signing of the Sept. 13 Israeli-PLO peace agreement. Mr. Mana'a and Mr. Mark

plan to describe life in Neve Shalom and its new School for Peace, the village adult education project financed by a grant from the New Israel Fund, in a deries of fund-raising events in five U.S. cities.

The New Israel Fund is an international organisation dedicated to strengthening democracy, promoting pluralism and tolerance and bridging social and economic gaps among disadvantaged populations.

At a Dec. 3 luncheon at the

Brookings Institution, the two educators discussed the future of Arab-Israeli relations and the flood of interest in the project in recent weeks.

Section 5

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Peace is going to come about through political solnhut those solutions depend upon building trust trust through dialogue, edncation and effort, Mr. Mark said.
"The policy of the present (Israeli) government is based on the success of work like onrs," he added, i.e. on buildingitrust between the two peoples...I don't see (any other) alternative.

The work currently being done has the backing, Mr. Marik believes, of "the silent malfority in Israel and the West Bark...There are masses of people who want the peace to work." However, the dearth of mutual trust among the two communities "keeps them from standing fully behind" such projects. Building trust is "Where the work lies," accord-

inglito Mr. Mark. He noted that many viewed and continue to view project organisers as naive, in terms of political realities, and yet "towhether it is possible to conduct dialogue...bnt bow.

Mr. Mana'a, a Palestinian Arab, echoed Mr. Mark's optimism, noting that Palestinidhs "are very happy that this is happening." One expects "many difficulties" as a part of the process...(so) "the only guarantee for continuing it is cooperation between the two peoples and their respective leadership," he stressed. Mr. Mana'a, a pharmacist by

profession, said he sees a parallelebetween what is happening ing the peace process and holistic healing

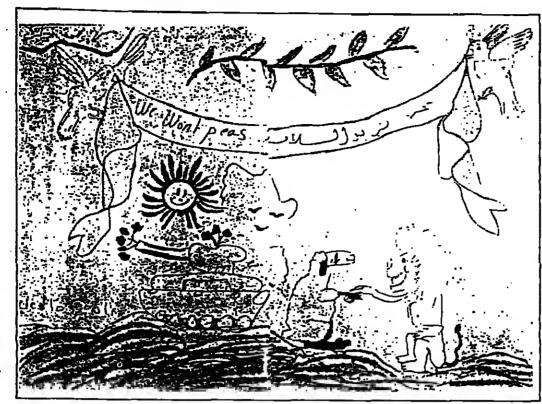
The first stage of healing "intensifies" the symptoms of the malady, he explained, just as violence has intensified between Palestinians and Israelis since the Sept. 13 signing. He termed the violence "normal and anatural," a sign that "the treatment" is working.

Now the peace of Neve Shalom "is the normal state of living," Mr. Mana'a observed. Alt's easy, believe me... (what is) ahnormal is outside."

Since 1990, the New School for Peace has offered crosscultural training to community leaders, using education and distogue to overcome the psychological and cultural barriers that divide Arabs and Jews, with Neve Shalom as a model of a working commun-ity. Tel Aviv University has chosen the School for Peace to create a one-year graduate psychology "laboratory" prog-rathme. Over 13,000 have already gone through School for Peace workshops, according to Mr. Mark, who noted that cross-cultural encounter courses are given both within the Jewish and Palestinian communities, as well as jointly.

Mr. Mana'a said the Israeli city of Lod is building a new community centre where Arab and Jewish communities can interact. He noted that youth and leaders from Ramallah (West Bank) also met at Neve Shalom, and that the idea of an encounter course between Palestinians and Israeli policemen has also been suggested. "We would be very happy to do: this if there is a positive reaction on both sides," Mr.

Mana'a said. Since its founding in 1980, Neve Shalom has brought together Palestinian and Jewish Israelis into a family setting in which decisions concerning rducation, lifestyle, and cultu-fal. traditions are decided



A child's impression of peace

'We've had many years to face the problems and discovered what it meant to give bilingual education, and to open it up to people outside which had always been our ultimate goal, "Mr. Mark said. He said Neve Shalom began

as a very small project, when five Israeli and Palestinian families decided to move to the village and develop principles upon which to build a community and rear their families.

has 90 Jewish and Palestinian children who come from outside the village, and the demand to live in the village and attend the school is far greater than can be accommodated.

Cultural integration among yonngsters attending the school is so complete. Mr. Mana'a said, that his own mother could not distinguish Israeli from Palestinian children when she visited the school, and "she

The silent majority of people in Israel and the **West Bank wants peace** to work'

One of the first decisions we had to make was how we would, rear our children," Mr. Mark explained. "We opened up the first bilingual, binational educational system in Israel with five toddlers; and a Jewish and an Arab teacher. Each (teacher) spoke only her own "And very sooo, be said, all the children were conversing bilingually.

Today the primary school

was excited - and very delighted.'

Mr. Mana'a said he is one of a million Palestinians with an Israeli passport living in totally separate Palestinian communi-ties inside Israel. His "first real meeting with Jews" came when he was 20 years old and attending Hebrew University, and it marked the first time be was able to talk to Jews frankly and

"We belong to no other group. We are truly a Jewish-Palestinian initiative, answerable only to our own determination to (fulfill) the aspira-

lage enables us to learn about ourselves and our own responsibilities. In July, the concluded, the Israeli Ministry of Education "finally gave us recognition for the primary school - and more important, legitimacy"

— United States Information Agency. directly about the conflict be-

tween Arabs and Jews.

"One of the hig advantages I

have given my children by liv-

ing in Neve Shalom," he said.

is that "they don't have that

feeling of guilt because they

are Arabs...or that things are

as they are because we are

Arah...They know they are re-

sponsible for their own ac-

revolutionary projects in the field in Israel," Mr. Mark sum-

med up. "The children are

brought up (without consider-

ing) whether its possible to

become acquainted and to play

with each other — for them. coexistence is a simple fact."

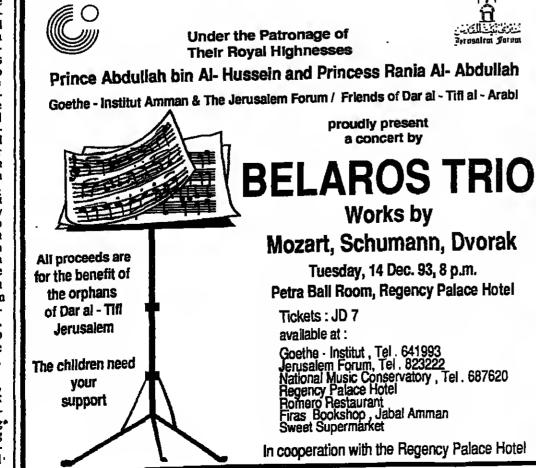
tions of the two peoples who live in the village," he said. "And while we meet each

other and learn more about

each other, ultimately the vil-

"I see this as one of the most





A woman is condemned to death

By Taslima Nasrin

DHAKA, Bangladesh — At a rally at the National Mosque here in the capital of Bangladesh a crowd of 10,000 Muslim fundamentalists has called for my death. The group that initiated the fatwa, or death sentence, the Council of Sol-diers of Islam, has been joined by other fundamentalist groups demanding that the government ban my books and put blasphemers' like me to

My most recent book, "La-jja" ("Shame"), was about a Hindu family persecuted in Bangladesh after the destruction of the Ayodhya mosque in India in December 1992. In India, fundamentalist Hindus killed innocent Muslints: in Pakistan and Bangladesh, tundamentalist Muslims perse-cuted Hindus and burned their

temples. This summer, after 50,000 copies of the novel had been sold, the government banned it, under pressure from the fundamentalists, saving it was ereating misunderstanding hetween communities.

But I will not be silenced. Everywhere I look I see women being mistreated and their oppression justified in the name of religion. Is it not my moral responsibility to protest?

Some men would keep women in chains - veiled, illiterate and in the kitchen. There are 60 million women in my country; not more than 15 per cent of them can read and write. How can Bangladesh become a modern country and find its place in the world when it is dragged backward by reactionary attitudes towards half

its people? It is my conviction that politics cannot be based on religion if our women are to be free. Bangladesh must become a modern secular state: family laws based on Islamic principles should be replaced by a uniform code ensuring the equal rights of women.

The country has laws against religious courts and their fat-was. But they are ignored. This year, in the village of Chatakchara, a young woman was stoned to death on orders from a local court because she had married nonin after a divorce.

In the village of Kalikapur, mullahs accused another young woman of fornication and sentenced her to a public flogging with 101 lashes of a broom. She died soon after, allegedly a

suicide. There are other such cases, girls from poor families in isolated areas, illegally sentenced by extremist interpreters of

For speaking out against such crimes, 1, too, have been

condemned to death. Why does the government not prosecute the fanatics who institute these fatwas? Many believe it is because the administration has come to power with the help of fundamental-

The authorities confiscated my passport in January: when I tried to get it back, they said I could not have it because I write against religion. In September, when the news-papers reported that fundamentalists had put a price on my head. I had to go to court and sue to get police protection. [The reward of about \$1,200 has apparently been rescinded, but the fatwa still

Is our prime minister. Khalida Zia, afraid in stand up to the fundamentalists? Does she not see that by placating them. she allows them to grow stronger, and the time will come when they turn upon her, too?

Bangladesh is my motherland. We gained our independence from Pakistan at the sacrifice of 30 million lives. That sacrifice will be betrayed if we allow ourselves to be dominated by religious extremism. Bangladesh should stand for women's equality and harmony between people of different

The ntullahs who would murder me will kill everything progressive in Bangladesh they are allowed to prevail. It is my duty to try to protect my beautiful country from them. I call on all those who share my values to help me defend my rights. By doing so, they will help save Bangladesh.

The writer is a novelist, newspaper columnist and poet. This article is reprinted from the

In the fight against obscurantism:

Rushdie gets defence from Muslims

By Alan Riding

PARIS — For the first time since Salman Rushdie was condemned to death by Iran on the ground that he blasphemed Islam in his 1989 novel, "The Satanic Verses," an important group of Arab and Muslim writers and intellectuals has spoken out in defence of his right to publish the book.

Rather than sintply putting their names to a joint declaration, though, each has written a hrief essay or poem — or in the case of the Moroccan composer. Ahmad Essyad, a short piece of music — dedicated to the British author and to the principle of freedom of expression.

The veritable terrorism of which he is a target is unjustifiable, indefensible, wrote Naguih Mahfouz, the Egyptian who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1988. "One idea can only be opposed by other ideas. Even if the punishment, is carried out, the idea as well as the book will remain." Tahar Ben Jelloun, a prom-

inent Moroccan writer, said that no matter how much offense Rushdie's book might death for what he wrote is "intolerable, inadmissible and has nothing to do with the tolerant Islam that I was

He added that literature as a whole, "the ability to create characters and develop them in the space and time chosen by the writer," was threatened because it can survive only in freedom, "Without freedom,

there is no creation, no life, no

beauty," he said. The expression of solidarity by the 100 writers and intellectuals from a dozen Muslim countries takes the form of a book called "For Rushdie," organised and published in France hy Editions La De-couverte. Contributions were collected between October 1992 and June 1993.

To coincide with publication. Rushdie, who has spent most of his time in hiding since the Faiwa, or death senience. was issued by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran in February 1989, expressed thanks for this "anthology of blows struck in the fight against obscurantism and fanatíčism.

In an open letter to the French daily Liheration, the 46-year-old novelist said that "ever since the beginning of the whole sad affair of. The Satanic Verses. I have felt saddest about the relative silence of the writers and intellectuals of the Muslim and Arab world.

"So it is a great delight to ie wrote the most gifted, the most learned, the most important voices of the Muslim and Arah world, gathered together to subject my work and the furor surrounding it to so brilliant, so many sided, so judicious an examination.

The hook is important too," he said, "because it sets the affair of 'The Satanic Verses' in the context of the intellectual history of many different countries — the history of persecution past and

Many of the authors seem all too aware of persecution. While condemning the edict against Rushdie, they also pointedly drew Western attention to the threats and assassinations suffered by intellectuals in many Muslim cnuntries today at the hands of religious extremists.

> Several recalled the murder of the Egyptian writer Farag Fouda last year and the Algerian writer Tahar Djaout in May, while others warned of the deepening confrontation between secular freedoms and Islamic fundamentalism. Many of the authors have themselves

Arab and Muslim liberals and leftists reflected a "generalised resignation" to allowing religious figures to define "our history, our image and our relations with the world." And he added: "When an idea is attributed to a demon, exorcism by fire becomes the easiest solution.

Some authors, though, also noted that the Rushdie affair had highlighted the double standards that the West often applies to the Islamic world. For example, while quickly closing ranks behind Rushdie they said, the West seemed

indifferent to the suffering of Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the many "Arab Rushdies" who have heen killed.

Speaking about "The Sata-nic Verses," many contributors to "For Rushdie" said they had not been able to read the book, and others made no secret of their distaste for the way it treats Islam. But all insisted that under no Islamic law could Rushdie be condemned to death for writing it.

"Rushdie's book would have gone unnoticed without the altention given to it by the Iranian decision." Tayeb Salin, a Sudanese writer, said. adding, "I am convinced the Prophet himself would have given him his freedom.

Abbas Baydoun, a Lehanese "For Rushdie" are the poet said lack of interest iff the Edwards poet Adonis:
The Rushdie laffair among the Mohammad Arkson and Muslim liberta and Muslim liberta are the said and Muslim liberta are the said lack of interest iff the Edwards poet Adonis: rian theologian; Mahmoud Darwish, a Palestinian poet. Amin Malouf, a Lehanese writer; Edward Said, a Palestinian-American writer: Joseph Samaha, a Lebanese journalist, and Elias Sanbar, a nian historian.

It was, however, perhaps the Moroccan composer, Ahmad Essyad, who best captured the universal definition of freedom of expression. In a postscript to his piece of music, he wrote, To Salman Rushdie, so that, as an artist, he can write what I disagree with" - New York Times.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Mubarak: Foreigners backing unrest

KUWAIT (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Muharak, in remarks published Saturday, reiterated foreign countries were fuelling militant unrest and his government could retaliale although it would not want to do so. "As a state, we can carry out similar acts in other countries. We have the capability to do that, but this is not part of our methodology," he said in an interview with Kuwait's English language Arab Times and its sister paper Al Seyasseb. "Ours is a peace-loving people which does not believe in exporting terrorism to others," he was quoted as saying in the interview conducted in Cairo. Over the past year militants seeking to establish a strict Islamic state have launched bomb attacks on top government and military figures and foreign tourists, devastating Egypt's tourist industry. These terrorists do not represent Islamic movements as it is claimed," Mr. Mubarak was quoted as saying. He described the militants as "mercenaries receiving funds from outside to destabilise Egypt." He declined to name the countries he said were backing the militants.

Sudan arms people to face 'Western threats'

BAGHDAD (R) — Sudan said it was arming its people to face what it feared was a threat from the West. Sudanese leader Cmar Hassan Al Bashir told an Iraqi newspaper Saturday that he feared the United States would interved militarily in his country's internal affairs and that he was arming the country to meet the new threat. "The pressure (against Sudan) will continue to reach the stage of direct military intervendoo. We should not wait for this to happen to take actioo," the government newspaper Al. Jumhouriya quoted Lieutenant-General Bashir as saying in an interview. "If there is a gun with every person in Sudan throughout one millioo square miles of the country, we shall be able to defeat any power," he said. Gen. Bashir said military training camps were spread across the country and were handling volunteers until late at night. He accused the United States and its Western allies of hacking the rebels in the south to topple his government. Gen. Bashir defended his country's policy during the 1990 Gulf crisis over Kuwait and said Sudan had nothing to regret. Sudan sympath; ed with Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Gen. Bashir said there was no going back to multi-party democracy in Sudan, "We shall not return to the Western-style multi-party system which is rejected by our people. We shall not retreat from the Islamic-Arab policy at all."

Junblatt questions papal visit to Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) - Lebanon's Draze leader has expressed doubts about Pope John Paul's planned visit to the country and said be was not sure he wanted the Pope to come to the predominantly Druze Shouf mountains south of Beirut. Pope Ichn Paul is expected to make a week-long trip to Lebanoo in May and Vatican envoys have visited the Shouf to prepare for a papal visit to the area. Walid Junblatt, whose Druze forces orove the Maronite Christian minority from the Shouf during Lehanon's 1975-90 civil war, told Beirut Radio he urged the envoys not to exploit a papal visit to the mountains for sectarian purposes. Mr. Junblatt, whose forces were allied with Syria during the war, also criticised a Maronite Christian hishop for recently calling on Syria to withdraw its estimated 35,000 troops from Lebanon without urging an Israeli pullout from South Lebanon. The Pope's visit was, "perhaps out of place if it comes amid a climate of internal disputes," Mr. Junblatt said. "We will see later if it is necessary for the Pope to visit the Sbouf." Mr. Junblatt is government minister responsible for the return of displaced communities to their pre-war homes, but few of the tens of thousands of Christians wbo fled the Shouf have returned.

Kuwaiti journalists held over report

KeWATT; (R): ... Kuwaitis-authorities held a newspaper publisher and editor overnight after they refused to pay bail during questioning about an allegedly defamatory report on state investments, a member of parliament said Saturday. Sami Al Munayes, publisher of left-leaning Al Talea weekly newspaper, and Almad Al Nafisi, editor-in-chief, were released Thursday evening after being called in for questioning on Wednesday morning by an official of the attorney-general's office, Deputy Abdullah Al Nibari said. The two were questioned at the Justice Ministry. They spent the night at a criminal investigation service office after refusing to pay bail, Mr. Nibari said. The two had argued payment would constitute an admission of guilt. They were freed after it was agreed that they lodge bail in the form of a non-monetary personal guarantee, Mr. Nibari said. The Interior Ministry and the attorney general's office declined immediate comment. Ahmad Al Jarallah, editor-in-chief of the English-language Arab Times and its sister paper Al Seyassah, is suing Mr. Munayes. Mr. Nafisi and Al Talea managing director Ahmad Al Deyain for lihel over a September article in Al Talea about stte investmeots. Al Talea, mouthpiece of the liberal democra-tic Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF), and other opposition groups are campaigning for the exposure of former officials it says stole public funds in the 1980s and during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Mr. Munayes and Mr. Nafisi, both former deputies, and Mr. Deyain are leaders of the KDF. Mr. Nibari is the KDf representative in parliament.

Turkish police raid pro-Kurdish daily

ISTANBUL (R) - Turkish police raided the offices of a pro-Kurdish newspaper in Istanhul and detained more than 40 employees, press sources said Saturday. Police entered the Ozgur Gundem's building Friday, rounded up 43 staff and workers and searched the offices, the sources said. They controlled the huilding overnight on the orders of a state security court. Police declined to comment on the raid. Among those arrested were chief editor Gurbetelli Ersoz, assistant editor Ferda Cetin and news editor Goltan Kisanak, the Kurdistan Information Centre said in a statement from London. The newspaper did not appear Saturday. Istanbul state security court twice ordered Ozgur Gundem closed last mooth for 15 days for publishing an interview with outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan and other items considered sympathetic to the Kurdish insurgency.

Bhutto ends formal talks in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto praised her country's ties with Turkey Saturday and said the two Muslim states should seek projects in the Central Asian republics. "Turkey is our second home," she told a news conference after holding formal talks with Tansu Ciller, Turkey's woman leader, on Friday. "The fact that two lady prime ministers of the Muslim World are holding oegotiations is evidence of a strong political movement which is based on equality, a movement in which there is oo such word as discrimination," she said, she and Ms. Ciller had agreed to seek joint projects in the mainly Muslim ex-Soviet republics of Central Asia, Ms. Bhutto said. Turkey and Pakistan, founders with Iran of the Economic Cooperation Organisateioo (ECO), should work to develop a potential market formed after Afghanistan and six Central Asian states joined ECO in 1992, Ms. Bhutto said. she said Pakistan had reiterated its support for the rights of the Turkish Cypriots and Ms. Ciller had assured Ms. Bhutto of Turkish hacking for Pakistan in the Kashmir dispute with India.

Kuwait wants Iraq to free all

LONDON (AFP) - Kuwait called on the world community Saturday to exert "increasing pressure" on Bagbdad to free all Kuwains and other foreigners held in Iraq, following the release of three Britons two days ago. In a statement the Kuwaiti emhassy bere welcomed the release of the British nationals Thursday as "excellent news," but said Iraq "must not be rewarded for releasing people detained illegally in the first place." The embassy said an estimated 700 people remained captive in Iraq. Six hundred Kuwaitis "were taken at andom" during iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and "they share beir appalling conditions with French, Swiss, Iodian, Filipin ptian and other hargaining chips.

Most isolated settlers in Gaza Strip dig in

By Robert Mahoney Reuter

NETZARIM, Gaza Strip -They live on a levelled sand dune, inside a fence within a fence. They send their children to school under armed guard and sleep with Uzi submachineguns

The people are religious Jews. The place is Netzarim, the most isolated settlement in

The smaller feoce is designed to keep Arabs out of the Jewish eoclave. The bigger fence, running the length of the strip, is meant to keep them out of the "Jewish state."

In what looks like a desert prisoner-of-war camp, a hand-ful of families sit on what they call their God-given land amid one millioo Palestinians who. want them out.

There are more militant settlers and more strategically important settlements in the West Bank than here in the centre of the Strip. But Netzarim and the oear-

by enclave of Kfar Darom could become test cases for the implementation of Israel's peace deal with the Palestine Liheration Organisation (PLO).

Israel has vowed not to abandon settlements when it begins withdrawing troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho this mooth eveo though security officials see little military value in many of

them.
Netzarim and Kfar Darom were put there by a previous right-wing government for a political purpose — to impede any land-for-peace deal with

the Palestinians. Centrist Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin finds it politically impossible at present to entice or uproot any of the 120,000 settlers from the occupied territories.

But security sources said Netzarim and Kfar Darom were on the table at talks in Egyupt to implement the twophase accord. The sources see their 300 resideots as a security headache and would like to relocate them in the secood stage of the agreement in less than five years.

The Palestinians too fear the settlers will be a prime target for groups bent on wrecking the peace accord. They also think the presence of armed settlers under an army umbrel-la will undermine PLO claims to have secured an Israeli withdrawal.

There is no doubt that the main problem in the implementation of the Oslo agreement is the distribution of the Jewish settlements, primarily in the Gaza district." Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told memehrs of parliament last week.

"From the Israeli standpoint the settlers are the hig problem." said Joseph Alpher, director of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

"The problem will be most keenly felt in those areas where there is a potential for day-to-day friction between the settlers and Palestinians in Gaza, that is Netzarim and Kfar Darom," Mr. Alpher

said. Zvi Hendel, leader of the 4,000 Gaza settlers, acknowledges that the future of Netzarim could be in the balance. "All the settlements will stay. The only argument is about Netzarim. he told Reuters. "Rahin said it was possible in the final (peace) settlement because he was oot happy with its location.

We are not moving," said Shlomit Hameir, a soft-spoken and hospitable mother who moved to Netzarim from the West Bank settlemeot of Karnei Shomron for the challenge and the Mediterranean view. She admits to being worried

hy the upsurge of Palestinian attacks against settlers but vowed violeoce will oot force

Down the road in Kfar Darom. Michal Shenhaum. who immigrated from Brooklyo a few mooths ago, says four families have actually moved in to the heavily-guarded settle-ment since the accord was signed in September.

She says she would not take money to leave ber small prefabricated home which she reots for \$50 a month. Israeli

officials say privately all but a few thousand ardent settlers

withdrawal," he said.

ter what.
"I am not an obstacle for peace," she said referring to the U.S. description of settle-

could be lured away by gener-

ous compensation. "Netzarim and Kfar Darom aree in many ways a test, a sort of model of what things will look like in the West Bank if we carry out any substantial redeployment. the Jaffee

Centre's Alpher said. The Gaza Strip is going to pin down a lot of resources. I assume that because it is small it is not going to stop the process hut it certainly is going to signal what the problems are likely to be in the West Bank if we do any kind of substantive

The West Bank is dotted with dozens of Netzarims. Their fate is to be discussed after the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

If the pullout from Gaza does not break the cycle of Arab-settler violence here, the accord could be threatened.

Fearing further attacks the settlers in the rest of the strip have put up an electric fence. They are coralled in 10 enclaves in the Gush Katif block at the southern tip of the strip along the coast and the Egyptian border.

Outside this protection set-tlers like Michal Sbenbaum are determined to hang oo no mat-



A Palestinian boy is arrested by a Israeli policeman in occupied Jerusalem on Saturday (AFP photo)

kind of peace... if the army was withdrawn we would try to defend ourselves. We have a

strong belief that God will hole us the land. Gaza is as much

General Assembly passes 10 resolutions on UNRWA

AMMAN - The United Nations General Assembly, meeting in plenary session in New York on Friday adopted 10 resolutions relating to the work of the United Nations Rebef and Works Agency for Pales-tine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The main resolution, sponsored by 12 member states of the European Union, was adopted by a vote of 159 for, 0 against and two abstaining. Noting "that the new context created by the Israeli-Palestinian accord of 13 September, 1993 will bave major consequences for the activities of the agency," the General Assemhly called upon UNRWA, within the framework of strengthened cooperation with the other specialised agencies and the World Bank, to make a decisive contribution towards giving a fresh impetus to the nic and social stability of the occupied territories" of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also noted that the "functioning of the agency remains essential throughout its area of operations," which also includes Jordan, Lebanoo and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The General Assembly welcomed the rescults of the Oct. 1 conference to support Middle East peace, held in Washington, and urged all member states "to extend aid and assistance with a view to the economic development of the occupied territories." The resolution expressed the

Assembly's thanks to UN-RWA Commissioner General liter Turkmen and all the staff of the agency, "recognising that the agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources" to assist the Palestine refugees. Directing attention to "the continuing seriousness of the financial position" of UNRWA, the General Assembly noted "with profound concern" that despite efforts to increase donor contributions, the agency's in-come "is still insufficient to Lockerbie suspects

NICOSIA (AFP) — Two Li-byan suspects wanted in the

West over the Lockerbie airlin-

er bombing have protested

their innocence and again re-fused to stand trial in Britain or

the United States, in an inter-

view with an Arab magazine

lished in Loodon, said it was

the first time the Libyan au-

thorities bad allowed the two

suspects, Abdul Basset Al

Megrahi and Al Amio Khalifa

Fhima, to be interviewed on

the bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerhie, Scot-land, in Dec. 1988, which kil-

The suspects, former em-

ployees of the national Libyan

Arab Airlines Company, said

they were ready to go on trial ain "a third country," but they were "confident of their inno-

They denied being "mixed up in some way" with the Lockerbie bombing, and said

the had "no connection" with

the Libyan intelligence ser-

vices, the magazine reported. They also denied "being

subjected to pressure to give

Al Majaliah, a weekly pub-

obtained here.

led 270 people.

say they are innocent

cover essential budget requirements... As a matter of urgency," the General Assembly called on all governments "to make the most generous efforts to meet the anticipated needs of the agency." The re-solution also requested that UNRWA's headquarters be transferred "as soon as practicable to its area of operations."

The resolutions adopted oo Friday bad been recommended for approval by the General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonisation Commit-tee (Fourth Committee), which bad considered a series of draft resolutions at the end of its annual debate on UN-RWA's work on Wednesday. solotion on UNRWA in the Fourth Committee on Wednesday, the permanent representative of Belgium, speaking for the member states of the European Union, said: "We believe that UNRWA, given the experience of its staff, especially in the areas of bealth and education, will have a decisive role to play in the improvement of social and economic conditions in the occupied territories during the period of transition to Palestinian selfrule. We believe, furthermore, that the activities of the ageocy will remain vital throughoot its area of operations."

The Belgian representative appealed to member states to increase their support for UN-RWA "so that it will be in a position to play its full part in the efforts envisaged to bring peace and prosperity to the Palestine refugees in the Near

East region."
UNRWA carries out its programmes of educatioo, health, relief and social services and emergeocy-related assistance to over 2.8 million registered Palestine refugees under a mandate from the General Assembly which is renewed every three years. The current mandate will expire oo June 30, 1996 — UNRWA press release.

themselves up," Al Majallah

said, and stressed that they were living in "relative freedom" in Tripoli, where the interview took place.

The magazine said the sus-pects expressed "surprise" at the behaviour of one of their

former colleagues, Abdul Ma-

jid Jiaka, regarded as the main

prosecution witness io the

case, and currently living in the

United States.
At the end of November the Libyan official media said Mr. Jiaka was "mentally ill," and

his parents bad called for him

Libya bas refused to band

over the suspects to Britain or

the United States oo the

grounds that they would not get a fair trial although it bas

agreed to a trial in neutral

country, probably Switzerland.

Libyan leader Colonel

Muammar Qadhafi bas been

touring the country for daily

meetings with demonstrators

protesting at the decision by

the United Nations on Dec. 1

to freeze Libyan assets abroad

and to stop deliveries to

Lihya's petrochemical in-

to be killed.

Britain starts moving Iraqi assets to U.N.

LONDON (R) — Britain said Friday it was taking steps to transfer some of the frozen Iraqi assets it holds to the United Nations - just as two of three Britons freed from Iraqi prisons flew bome.

Britain's treasury published an announcement signalling the removal of Iraqi money held in accounts at the Bank of England (BoE) on the same day the three men partioned: by Iraqi President Saddam. Hussein, were reunited with their families in Jordan.

A Bank of England spokesman said the timing of the announcement was a coincidence and the central bank bad set wheels in motion weeks ago to sequester a small amount of the \$816 million of Iraqi money beld in British-based banks.

The spokesman said the money was destined for a fund, set up by a U.N. resolutioo in 1992, to meet the cost of burnanitarian programmes in Iraq and of scrapping Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction as well as to feed a Gulf war reparations fund. British anthorities have said

they made oo deal oo lifting U.N. sanctions to gain the release on Thursday of Paul Ride, 33, Michael Wainwright, 42, and Simon Dunn, 23, who had been held oo charges of illegally entering Iraq.

"As you know there was oo bargain involved. It doesn't alter geoeral policy. It doesn't change the relationship, except that it removes an aggravation," Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in Brussels

"Today's treasury order relates to money held at the Bank of England which falls withio the terms of U.N. Security Council Resolution 778." the Bank of England spokesman said.

We separately have been enquiring at hanks whether they bave any assets that fall within the terms of that resolution — when we have completed those enquiries and taken the necessary legal advice we will ourselves take steps to implement the sequestration order," the spokesman

British officials declined to give exact figures but said the Iraqi money which met those requirements was only a fractioo of the \$816 million still blocked in Britain.

The total was likely to amount to a only a few million dollars and would he announced within weeks, they said.

But they confirmed it was the first time Iraqi assets frozen in Britain after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait had been forcibly transferred to the U.N. escrow account, set up under the 1992 Security Council resolution. Friday's treasury notice.

published in official gazettes in London, Edinburgh and Bel-fast, asked people who be-lieved they bad claims on £186,000 (\$278,000) of Iraqi money beld in accounts at the Bank of England to make written representations within 21

FIS demands release of leaders as term for talks The Algerian conflict began after the military intervened in

ALGIERS (Agencies) -Memhers of the hanned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) have called on the government to free their jailed leaders as a condition for opening talks un Algeria's increasingly violent pulitical crisis, a pro-front newspaper said Saturday. Six founding members of the

FIS demanded the release of Abbassi Madani and the rest of the movement's jailed leaders in a communique they handed to staff of the daily Al Khahar late Friday. The six also demanded that

all founding 17 members of the FIS who belong to its leadership, "including the (seven) detained leaders," be allowed to participate in the talks. In addition to Mr. Madani, these are: Ali Belhadj, Kamel Guemazi, Abdul Kader Oman, Noureddine Cheara, Abdu Kader Boukhamkham and Ali

Jeddi. A military coun sentenced them in July 1992 to prison terms running from four to 12

Al Khahar, which is sympathetic to the Muslim fundamentalists, said the cnmmunique was in response to General Mohammad Touati's invitation Thursday to the fundamentalists to join debates on a political transition in Algeria.

Gen. Touati. one of the three army representatives on the National Committee for Dialogue (CND), however ruled out the FIS's direct participation in a national conference.

The eight-memher CND is charged with setting-up the conference, which in turn would work out details of a two- to three-year-lung politicla transition - starting in January — ahead of presidential and legislative elections. which would he held in 1993 at the earliest.

January 1992 to cancel the second round of a general election that the FIS was poised to

Islamic fundamentalists have waged a guerrilla war against the government since then, assassinating hundreds of people, including Algerian intellectuals who oppose them, and recently a number of forcigners.

Gen. Touati said the FIS could not join the national conference because the movement had been hanned since April 1992 and its activities forhidden in Algeria

· Whatever the merits of this measure, it was taken by the country's highest authorities and must be respected." he udded.

Americans advised to quit

The State Department has warned Americans to leave Algeria because of a wave of

murders of foreigners. Four victims of recent attacks have been foreigners. following threats.

No Americans had been killed and there was no threat that specified Americans, but State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said U.S. action was in response to violence following a demand that all foreigners leave the country or be killed.

she said the emhassy had reduced its personnel but did not say how many U.S. officials remain. She said 440 American citizens are known to be living in Algeria.

In Algeria, security forces reported that 29 people were killed in political violence Wednesday. Officials said that 11 extrem-

ists involved in the killing of

two Russian military officers

had been arrested. Russia pre-pared to evacuate diplomats families because of the viole

Als, shelly said foreigners killed this month included a Spanish businessman, a Ru🛊 sian woman married to ne. Algerian, a French resident and a British employee of any American firm.

Journalists denounce curbs:

In Brussels the International Federation of Journalists (IFD) Friday condemned the murdet of to writers in Algeria over recent months and accused Algeria's government of de nying the media essential free

The IFI. which has ween 320,000 members in 75 course tries, said seven journalists were among 16 writers killed if Algeria since May 26.

We absolutely reject the cruel and brutal campaign of assassination by Islamitopposition groups such as the Islamic armed movement and the armed Islamic group. Aidan White, general secretary of the IFJ, told a news

confetence. Some of these deaths are attributed to part of a holy war, hut such horrifying in tolerance cannot be sand tified." Mr. White added. 21

He said the IFI condemned the introduction of laws by the Algerian government curtail-

ing the freedom of opinion. We call for all actions and prosecutions against journal ists and media to be with dfrawn and for anyone de tained in the peaceful exercise of his or her right to freedom of expression to be released immediately." Mr. White said.

He added that the IFJ intended "to ensure that the United Nations takes account of these dreadful develor ments."

Top cleric named Shi'ite guide

NICOSIA (AP) — Top religious scholars have appointed a successor to Grand Ayatoliah Mohammad Reza Golpaygani, the supreme spiritual guide for Shi'ite Muslims who was buried Saturday, Iranian news media reported. State-run Tehran Radio,

laid to rest amid a "sea" of millions of mourners in the central Iranian boly city of The throog was so rhick that the funeral cortege bearing his body was delayed several times

before reaching the burial

monitored in Cyprus, said Ayatollah Golpaygani, was

ground. The radio, monitored in Cyprus, said black-clad mourners beat their chests and wailed "Hussein, Hussein" in a traditional evocation of the name of Sbi'ite Islam's boliest saint.

Ayatollah Golpaygani died Thursday. He was 98. The Society of Teachers of Qom Semioary - the Shi'ite sect's top scholars announced be would be succeeded by Grand Ayatollah Ali Araki, who is more than 90 years old.

public News Agency said the scholars announced their decision late Friday. Ayatollah Golpaygani bad

The state-run Islamic Re-

become the supreme spiritual guide for the majority of Shi ites in Iran and Iraq and for members of the sect around the world after the deaths of grand ayatollahs Abul Qassim Al Khoei in August 1992 and Abdul Ala Sabzevari a year later. Both lived and died in the holy city of Najaf in south-

ern Iraq.

The only three remaining grand ayatollahs in the Shi'ite world are Araki, Hassan Tabatabaie Qomi, 85, and Ali Mon-

tazeri, 71. Ayatollah Araki was viewed as a non-controversial choice to succeed Ayatollah Gol-paygani as 'marja'e taqlid,' regarded as the highest Shi ite authority in interpreting the

Koran. The decision defused a possible confrontation between so-called conservatives and radicals inside the Tehran

Radicals believed Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 54 — the candidate of some of the conservatives was too young and unqualified. They thought Ayatollah Mon-

tazeri was better suited. Ayatollah Montazeri, an outspoken critic of the government's policies, has been stripped unofficially of his title. He has been under virtual house arrest in Qom since Ayatollah

Ruhollah Khomeini dismissel him as his designated successed before he died in June 1989. Ayatollah Khomein although regarded in Iran as an "imam" — the highest Shi'id honour — was never named grand ayatollah, a distinction reserved more for scholars eminence.

Shi'ites make up about a fifth of the world's one billion Muslims. The Islamic faith split into Sunni and Shi'ite branches after the death of Prophet Mohammad in the year 632 A.D.

The main cause for the split was a struggle over who should succeed the Prophet.

Ayatollah Golphygani was buried next to the tomb of he

mentor, the late Ayatolla Abdulkarim Haeri, Earliet, bit body was washed and spring led with camphor in the trad tional manner,

Mourning ceremonies al-were held in Pakistan, Ind-and many other countries the are either Islamic or have lare Muslim populations.

The government declared national holiday to allow per ple to attend the funeral L Qom, the Shi'ites' main re-gious centre 130 kilometre south of Tehran. Public bust ferried mourners from Tehran free of charge.

ialks

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM

SAFEWAY

On Friday, December 10, 1993, around 7:00 p.m., a fire broke out at the Main Entrance to Safeway. The in-house General Safety teams moved immediately to confine the fire and block it from spreading out, until teams from the Civil Defense Department arrived and extinguished the fire.

Meanwhile, shoppers inside Safeway were evacuated from the emergency exits.

The fires were confined to the main entrance, and with God's blessings, did not spread to the upper floors.

However, due to the smoke, scores of shoppers suffered various degrees of suffocation.

Teams of the Civil Defense, Royal Medical Services, Public Security, Royal Airforce and Metropolitan Amman Municipality transported those suffering from such suffocation to hospitals for treatment.

Thanks to the medical teams at these hospitals these cases of suffocation received swift and efficient treatment.

In view of the sympathy by all those fellow citizens who rushed to assist during the fire and after it was extinguished, and all those who expressed their concern,

Safeway's Management extend its most profound and affectionate gratitude.

Safeway's Management was profoundly touched by this spirit of civil courage and loyalty, and will always bear in remembrance these noble gestures and sympathies. At the same time, the Management extends its utmost gratitude to all members of staff, who devotedly and loyally moved swiftly to confine the fire and save shoppers from suffocation.

If anything, this great spirit and sense of shared interest and concern of this one whole Jordanian family, implanted and nourished by His Majesty, King Hussein Bin Talal, reflected itself in the most noble fashion. Thanks to God, the damage was confined to property with no serious harm to fellow citizens.

In this spirit, Safeway will always remain
a Jordanian mansion of loyalty, solidarity and common feeling of goodness
... a true and live testimonial of the love of its fellow Jordanians for national institutions
under the patronage and guardianship of

HIS MAJESTY THE KING and H.R.H. THE CROWN PRINCE

SAFEWAY

MANAGEMENT & STAFF

Extend Their Profound Gratitude To

The Civil Defense Department & Public Security Department
Royal Air Force & Arab Army
Royal Medical Services & Public & Private Hospitals
&

Metropolitan Amman Municipality

For all the great efforts and assistance in evacuating suffocating shoppers and extinguishing the fire which broke out Friday, Dec. 10th, 1993

God May Bless The Efforts of Great Men Like You in The Service of This Great Country
Under The Leadership of His Majesty

KING HUSSEIN BIN TALAL

Dow Jones rises to new high of 3,740

Street blue-chip stocks rose Friday to their third record high this week, buoved by gains in companies that would benefit from a stronger eco-

But smaller company's shares fell.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 10.89 points to close at a new high of 3.740.67. surpassing Wednesday's record of 3.734.53

Gains in stocks in the 30share Dow average. IBM and ALCOA among them, helped lift the blue-chip indicator. The index gained 36.60 for the

Volume was moderate at 244 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange, where declining issues led advancers by a narrow 1.097 to 950.

But, as was the case throughout the week, the hroader market ignored the Dow Jone's drive to a new

The NASDAO index of smaller, over-the-counter stocks lost 0.75 of a point to

Signs of an improving economy belped lift shares of big hlue-chip companies that would profit from increased demand if economic activity improves, particularly those involved in natural resource production, analysts said.

Raw materials stocks "are the first ones in the pipeline for a picked-up economy." said Douglas Myers, vice president of equity trading at Interstate/ Johnson Lane.

Among the gainers were alu-minium producer ALCOA. up

ducer Phelps Dodge, which gained 1-1/2 to 48-3/4.

Analysts said a government report that inflation at the reta level rose a scant (1.2 per ce it last month had little impa:t on the market. But they said strength in the economy raised some concerns for inves-

The market seems to have its fingers crossed concerning whether the (Federal Reserve) will view this strengthening in the economy as a reason to begin to tighten the monetary screws a little bit," said Jack Shaughnessy, director of research at Advest.

He said he did not think that was the case, noting that the recent drop in oil prices to five-year lows has helped keep a lid on inflation.

Bob Stovall, head of Stovall/ 21st Advisers, said investors were also worried hy high stock valuations and the divergence hetween the Dow and other indexes.

"There's a lot of apprehension that the market is riding for a fall," he said. Traders said a continued stream of bad news from the

technology companies added strain to the NASDAQ overthe-counter market.

Among the big losers Intel slid 1-3/4 to 56-1/4.1 The Standard Poor's composit index of 500 stocks fell

0.25 of a point to 463.93. The American Stock Exchange inde., lost 1.03 to 466.28. The NYSE composite index of all listed common stocks fell 0.07 to 256.93. The average share was down one cent.

Dutch move strategic oil stock to German salt caves

AMSTERDAM (R) - The Netherlands is moving more than a third of its strategic oil reserve from the Rotterdam area to undergound salt caves in Germany to cut costs.

A first shipment of 660,000 barrels of Brent crude was pumped into caves one kilometre helnw Etzel in northern Germany on Dec. 5, Hendrick-Jan Beverdam, managing director of Cova. the Dutch government-owned stockpile agency, said in an interview Friday. Up to 5.25 million of Cova's 13 million barrels of strategic oil will be sent there by 1996, he said, adding it is the first time Dutch strategic oil has been stored outside the Netherlands. Oil analysts said they were

unaware of any other country keeping a strategic oil reserve

Strategic oil reserves are emergency stockpiles for use in national crises if normal oil supplies are cut off and by their nature need to be kept within easy reach and in safe hands. they said.

"Storage in German caves is very attractive on cost," said Mr. Beverdam.

He declined to give price comparisons but oil industry sources said it currently costs oil companies around 50 Dutch cents (\$0.26) a barrel per month to store crude in Rot-Although Cova pays less

than commercial rates. German underground storage could be as little as half the cost of conventional sea-level tanks, the industry sources

'Its much cheaper to store oil there than in the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp (ARA) region, said Dutch oil consultant Pieter Kulsen.

Mr. Beverdam said availability of oil storage space was also limited in the Nether-

"We have had a bilateral agreement with Germany and Belgium for several years allowing us to use each others' storage. But Belgian storage, facilities are not a real option because they are limited and expensive." he explained.

The Etzel caves, which lie

close to Germany's northwest-

ern port of Wilhelmshaven and near the Dutch border, are operated by German state oil reserve company NWO. The caves already contain part of Germany's strategic oil stockpile and are connected by

pipeline to the country's main refining area on the Ruhr. Mr. Beverdam said the salt caves were ideal for storing oil hecause they were convenient. environmentally-friendly and

leak-proof. "In the U.S., almost all SPR (strategic petroleum reserve) is stored in salt caverns and a major part of the German held in Stockpile is also them." he said.

China plans law to stem hemorrhaging state assets

BEIJING (R) - China. watching hillions of dollars in state assets slip illicitly intoprivate pockets through economic reforms, is drafting a law to boost supervision of state companies as they revamp business operations.

"The regulation stipulates that property in industrial enterprises belongs to the state."
the official Xinhua News Agency has said.

It said the rules emphasise the government's supervisory role in reorganising assets. saving "stringent examinations should be completed before approval when transferring them to individuals, private enterprises or foreign inves-

Xinhua said China loses more than 30 billion yuan (\$5.2 hillion) annually as state assets are written over to individuals. intentionally undervalued hefore sale to investors or simply taken over hy new management groups.

Previous official estimates have said China could be losing an average of 100 million yuan (\$17.5 million) each day, with accumulated losses over the past 13 years exceeding 500 billion yuan (\$87 billion).

New Russian government

Economic reforms have thrust many state companies onto the market, and top managers often adapt quickly to capitalist-style corporate perks despite the fact they remain officially public servants.

Xinhua said the new law was part of a wider campaign by the government to keep control of its assets despite the dismantling of the old socialiststyle command economy.

It said Beijing's state asset administration next year would send supervisors to 1,000 large and medium-sized state firms "to supervise property man-

Greece delighted shipping is out of world trade talks

BRUSSELS (R) — Greece said Saturday it was delighted regulation and liberalisation of maritime shipping bad been dropped from negotiations on world-trade.

"Shipping is now completely out of the trade round. This is a great success for us. We want to keep the status quo," Greek Deputy National Economy Minister Yannos Papantomou said at a European Community (EC) summit in Brussels. EC trade negotiators in

Geneva were more cantions, saying that the Community might have to pull its shipping offer from the table to counter American moves in maritime

In the last few days before a Dec. 15 deadline for sealing a global deal among 115 nations, the United States and the Community have clashed over how far they would go towards opening their maritime shipping markets.

Some trade negotiators have suggested that the storm over shipping could wreck a vast accord covering a full range of services, which include everything from the audio-visual market to banking.

EC officials have charged in recent days that Washington reneged on an offer to open its maritime shipping sector. They said on reading the fine print of an American offer they found only about 0.8 per cent of their

market would be opened to competition. The shipping sector is crucial to many countries and the offer helped EC and U.S. negotiators to come within sight of complete agreement on bilateral trade issues in Brussels

earlier this week. In Geneva, chief negotiator John Schmidt reacted angrity to the EC accusations on shipping, and to statements by some EC leaders at the Brus-sels summit that maritime trade had been kicked out of the trade round.

He denied the United States had backtracked on its maritime offers and suggested some EC states were manoeuvring to get the issue off the negotiating table.

"The Greeks and Danes, the two largest member states in shipping, have made it clear quite a while ago that they would just as soon not see the

maritime sector in an agreement," be said.

Greece bas the largest com-mercial shipping fleet in the world and has fought tenaciously in previous trade talks. to exclude maritime deals.

Athens, with no great commerce of its own, makes its money by acting as the middleman in ferrying goods among other states.

In recent years the powerful Greek shippers have exploited the cheaper labour markets of Asia and the Third World to crew their ships, while ships' officers remained Greek. They have fought against

any hint of regulation or control, especially concerning safety and pay, which might come hand in hand with liberalisation of maritime markets. The United States warned

that should the EC formally pull out its offer on shipping, the whole trade round under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) might start to unravel.
"It could be the beginning of

very troubling time," said U.S. deputy assistant trade representative for services, Richard Self.

London's U.S. banks in Christmas bonus bonanza

LONDON (R) — American banks in London are drawing gasps in the financial community over the fat bonuses they pa, their staff, with one report Saturday saying at least 250

employees will get \$1 million this Christmas. U.S. investment bank Goldman Sachs raised eyebrows this week when it emerged it had made pre-tax profits this year of £2.6 billion (\$3.9 billion) and would reward 100 of its London staff with £1 million

(\$1.5 million) bonuses.

The Daily Telegraph said
Saturday at least 250 staff from Goldman Sacbs, Salomon Brothers, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, Lebman Brothers, Kidder Peabody and Bankers Trust would get more than \$1 million in bonuses. Thousands would receive more than \$100,000.

"Essentially the traders take tiny slices off huge sums," the Daily Telegraph said in its city comment page. "When trading picks up, then even the thin-nest spices of salami soon add np to quite a sausage.

Neither the banks nor the mdividuals involved would confirm or deny salaries or bonuses, but, in the bothouse world of the financial district called The City, word has spread fast of the megasalaries.

The multi-digit bonuses, recalling the booming 1980s when Porsche-driving traders filled wine bars in The City, bave drawn some indignation, and banks have been quick to point ont they are also raising more money for charity this

The new breed of highlypaid London-based traders on the international markets, using bonds and financial instruments called derivatives, can make fortunes for the American banks that employ them but have to work punishing

faces uphill economic task

MOSCOW (R) - Western bankers and economists feel reasonably confident that a reform-minded coalition government can be formed after Sunday's parliamentary elec-

tions, but it will face a huge task rescuing the economy. Russia's first post-Soviet polls offer voters a rich choice of parties ranging from extreme nationalists to communists, but few come with a package of economic policies and many have only a small num-

ber of experienced politicians

and economists. The most radical economic programme belongs to Russia's choice, led by First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, which promises a bitter dose of austerity to lower inflation, stabilise the rouble and speed up state sell-offs.

Mr. Gaidar and his two main running mates - Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov and Privatisation Minister Anatoly Chubais - have found it hard to preach their free-market gospel in the run-up to elec-

Their radicalism is also criticised by rival reformers, who see supply-side measures, and not tight money, as the key element of a successful finan-

cial policy. These are the "yabloko" bloc of economist Grigory Yavlinsky, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord of Deputy Prime Ministers Sergei Shakrai and Alexander Shokhin and the Russian Movement for Democratic reforms of St. Petersburg mayor

Anatoly Sobebak. Mr. Yavlinsky, best for a "500 day" reform plan proposed to ex-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev but never implemented, criticises Mr. Gaidar's economic prescriptions as painful.

He and other reformers are against 'shock therapy.'
"We're ready to sacrifice the speed of reforms to peace. The social price of reforms is at its peak." said economist Alexander Tsyganov of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord.

But most of the parties agree on the need to speed up the

greater ability to implement transition to a market eco-

Even the most Soviet-style parties contesting the elections have modified their economic platforms to fit the free market, although they still oppose mass privatisation.

The Communist Party. which wants Russia to turn the clock back to a time when bread, was cheap and everyone had a job, has left scope for some privatisation in its programme

We will have a centre-right coalition government, but things may not be as radical as promised by Gaidar and Fyodorov." said a senior Western economist.

Yet we are unlikely to see enormous disagreements. A reasonably pro-reform government means the continuation of a sound monetary policy. Such a government will have

policy.'

If Russia's choice, as predicted by opinion polls, gets enough votes to dominate a coalition government. Western

bankers expect reformers to take over key portfolios such as the economics and finance ministries and the central Bankers say Mr. Fyodorov is

likely to replace conservative central bank governor Viktor Gerashchenko and Mr. Gaidar become a "super" minister in charge of both economic and finance ministries.

Whatever the result of the polls, the new government will face an uphill task in dealing with the ailing economy.

The immediate problem of the reformers, if they become government, will be the high expectations they have

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 12, 1993 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You'll do your best with charm and magnetism today as long as you are unusually aware and active to the decisions which are of the most importance. Get rid of the tensions you are under.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get out in the world of ideas and imbue yourself with those which can be helpful to you in the days ahead, study periodicals and good sources of data.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You find your attachment bas some unusual ideas for your joint pleasures and although they may seem way out, are worth looking into carefully.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have some starting event occur which necessitates a change in some plans already decided upon but don't loiter over but go along with them.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be more alert to the various means and methods by which you can improve the stan-dard of your every day occupa-tions and you make headway. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have so many good ideas for enjoying yourself and your chosen companions in the future

that you need to jot them down to keep them in mind.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider well what you want in the outside world and

carry through with it eventhough it may momentarily interfere with some family activities.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Lots of morning communications can be productive of what you want the most and later you can combine these in impro-ving the operations you have during the daytime.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) First get whatever obligations you have agreed to do with others out of the way. then you can get into a plan that will increase your income.

SAGITTARIUS: to December 21) Get out and find out what partners in the outside would expect of you and then you can see how you can make it fit into your life with

excellent results CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever tasks re-quire your attention in the morning should be quickly completed as you will have a chance tonight

to enjoy private blessings. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can make arrangements for the recreations and approximents that interest you early, then concentrate upon

seeing good friends, getting their backing. PISCES: (February 20 to March. 20) Much activity at your residence is your outlet for the day after which accept an invitation to get out in the world of an susual event, party.

Uganda's tea industry recovers

KAMPALA (R) — Uganda's years of political unrest and civil war, is steadily recovering industry officials have said. Output is expected to rise to 12 million kilogrammes this year up from 9.4 million last year and 1.5 million in 1981, they told Reuters. Up to nine million kilogrammes of this will be exported and officials expect the East Africa country to earn up to \$9.2 million after less than \$1 million in 1981. To try to boost output, the govemment last year abolished the state export monopoly.

Pakistan to compensate

In a nationwide broadcast. Mrs. Bhutto said she had ordered the arrest of those responsible and for them 10 be

had affected 260,000 people, most of whom lost their life

hy offering high interest rates. but then could not meet with-

the period when Nawaz Sharif was prime minister and Mrs. Bhutto said-"past rulers were equally involved in the crime. The government will provide

jab government's registrar of cooperative societies had asked the hanks to freeze the accounts of more than 90 for-

ISLAMABAD (AFP) -Pakistan is to compensate

thousands of people who lost millions of dollars in a financial scam involving cooperative finance companies. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has

She said the biggest financial fraud" in Pakistan's history

savings.

societies which attracted more

than \$400 million in deposits

announced.

The scandal involved 100 private cooperative finance mer officials.

victims of financial scam

some compensation and more will come from the liquidation of the cooperatives assets. most of which operated in the populous Punjab province. Reports have said the Pun-

Peanuts









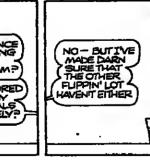




Mutt'n'Jeff





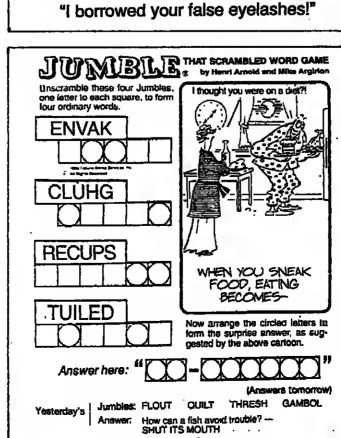


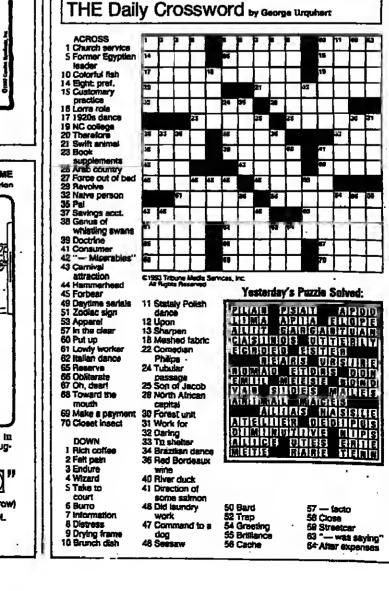






By Harris THE BETTER HALF, HARRIS





MH k 12, 1993

Fewer Japanese believe ___ in jobs for life — poll

TOKYO (R) — Younger workers have begun to reject lifetime employment, a practice that contributed to large Japanese corporations phenomenal success after World War II according to a survey published Saturday.

As much as a third of 20,000 male university graduates who responded to the survey said they had quit their orginal jobs and moved to others within their first 10 years of employment.

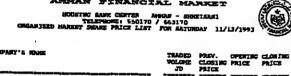
The survey, conducted by a government labout policy think tank, said 80 per cent of female respondents has switched jobs.

Among the reasons given were being forced to work long hours, being assigned boring rasks, disapproving of management style or being badly paid.

The younger generation is gradually abandoning the concept Intervoluger generation is gradually abandoning the concept of lifetime employment," concluded the study by the Japan Labour Research Organisation, an arm of the labour ministry. "This especially came true during the bubble economy years in the late 1980s," it added.

"Lifetime employment is an illusion." economist Noboru Sataka told the daily Asahi Shimbun, commenting on the study. "There is a huge gap between image and reality when newcomers are faced with harsh treatment in Japanese companies, such as lack of overtime pay or the inability to take holidays," he said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET



	JD	PRICE		
ARRH SAIC. JORDAN WATTOWAL RANK BARK OF JORDAN MIDDLE RAFF INVESTMENT RANK INDUSTRIAL DRIVELDPOINT RANK THE HOUSING RANK JORDAN EDWART HUME JORDAN SOULT SUMME JORDAN SOULT SUMME JORDAN SOULT SUMME JORDAN SELANCE RANK HININGS RANK JORDAN SELANCE RANK	*******			
JORDAN WATTOMAT, BANK	414,870	189. DOG	309.000	195.500
BASE OF JOSEPH	29,969	B.200	6-150	6.18C
MIDDLE BAST INVESTMENT NAME	11,375	4.380	4-310	4.290
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WARY	17,877	3.930	3.920	1.930
THE HOUSTHE BANK	368.795	3.770	3.990	3.990
THAT TIANUE MACHINE	18,161	5.570	5.590	5.700
JORDAN GULY -BANK	25,411	3.010	2.990	3.060
ARAH JORDAN IMPERTMENT HAVE	1 105	1.740	1-710	1.720
FORDAM SELANIC BANK	31,405	4.440	4 100	3-950 4 E40
BUSINESS TANK	72_400	333	7-400	4-170-
JORDAN TEVESTMENT & FINANCE RANGE	1.950	9 500	E 600	6 600
HELT PLANT SAVINGS INVESTMENT NOD SOUSTING	4 600	4.600	4.500	4.500
MOIGH HOME FOR THYRETHERY	141 905	7- 900	4.800	4.000
TAB BARELING CONFORATION/JORGAN	1.030	4 450	4 350	4 300
MILADELPHIA INVESTMENT NAME.	18.954	7.730	7.350	3-300
URABIAN EERS THEOREMCE	1.340	2.710	2,500	2 68D
RINDAN FRANCH BREURANCE	15.624	7 470	3 440	1 450
MAR LIFE & ACCIDION 3HSURANCE	4.600	3.000	3.000	1.000
ORDANIAM ELECTRIC POWER	60.734	3.750	3 340	1 220
THE INTERNATIONAL POTELS	5.773	4 700	4 970	4 070
CORDAN MATTOWAL SHIPPING LINES	3 848	7.700	- 3.000	7.040
OCTIONAL POSTFOLIO EXCUSITIVE	12.031	3.700	3.000	3.970
EAL ESTATE DEVESTMENT	4.950	1 640	1.950	1.950
PORDAM INTERMATIONAL TRADING CHITEM	3.044	1.550	1.470	1.500
C'AGLE > NOTACHUOS BEENS MAINS	1.400	14.200	14 000	14-000
CROAM PRESS & PUBLISHING /AD-DUSTOUR	3.450	13.800	13.800	13.800
MITTED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE BOTTKLS	70.215	2.130	3.110	2.160
MAS INTEL. FOR INVESTMENT & MOUCATION	43.037	2.700	2.700	2.780
TEASOREP COURT, MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	340	1.740	1.700	1.200
THE JOSONS CHORDET PACTORIES	108.593	3.020	3.000	2.020
CHOAR PETROLEUM REFIWARY	950	9.810	9.800	9.000
THE THOUSTREAL CONSCRICTAL & ADRICULTURAL	9.923	7.250	7.350	7.450
NAB PRABBACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	127, 193	8.310	8.340	8.380
PORDAM DATES	9.990	3.050	3.350	3.200
THE JORDAN PIPES HANDFACTURING	6.252	3.660	3.680	3-660
CONDAM PAPER & CARDROARD FACTORIES	5.043	4.000	4.000	4.050
MAN CREATERY DETREGIOTES DEDUCTATES	10.950	20.300	21, 300	31.350
SPINSTED & MEAVING	114.495	2-830	3.830	2.920
ANTA DEDUSTRIES	5.270	3.300	2.250	2.400
JORDAN CILARS DEDUSTRIES	720	0.360	0.360	0.360
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	133.990	16-000	15,000	15.400
ARAB INVESTMENT & INCOMATIONAL TRADE	123.568	3.260	3.350	3.480
AUAN ALIMITATING TROMPTOY	41.574	18.050	10.000	10.300
JORDAN BEDYCEY, COMPONENTION	1.021	0.410	0.390	0.390
MATTOMAT, STREET, THOMPSON	1.747	9.000	5 070	5.020
THIRDONATE OFFICE CHESTON, THE THE	8.230	3.550	1.564	3.500
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INTERPORAL CONSTRUCTOR THE PROPERTY CONTRACTOR	37.929	6 970	2 070	7.280
MANAGEMENT CHEMICAL PROPERTY.	21,727	010	1,000	11500

Financial Markets

Jordan Times



Currency	New York Close Dut 9/12/93	New York Close Dair 10/12/93
Sterling Pound	1.4930	1.4945
Deutsche Mark	1.7033	1.6973
Swiss Franc	1.4650	1.4540
French Franc	5.8388	5.8110
Japanese Yeu	108-66	109.21
European Curreny Unit	1.1309**	1.1373

* USD Per STG					•
European Openio	F 44	3:00	em.	GMT	

. Per 100

Eurocurrency Interest Rates		Date: 10/12/1993			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTRS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	3.21	3.21	3.37	3.56	
Sterling Pound	5.50	5.25	5.06_	5.00	
Deutsche Mark	6.18	5.88	5.50	5.12	
Swiss Franc	4.25	3.93	3.78	3.62	
French Franc	6.68	6.38	6-80	5.43	
Japanese Yen	2.34	2.00	1.87	1.87	
European Currency Unit	6.62	6.25	6.00	5.50	

Proclous !					/12/1998
Metal	USD/O2	JD/Gm ^e	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	383.45	7.45	Silver	5.05	0.114

	Date: 11/12/1995			
Сигтевсу	Bid	Offer		
U.S. Dollar	0.7000	0.7020		
Sterling Pound	1.0450	1.0502		
Deutsche Mark	0.4118	0.4)39		
Swiss Franc	0.4809	0.4833		
French . Franc	0.1203	0.1209		
Japanese Yen"	0.6404	0.6436		
Datch Guilder	0.3681	0.3699		
Swedish Krona	****	*****		
Italian Lira ⁵	0.0419	0.0321		
Belgian Franc	*****	*****		

Other Correncies	Date	m: 11/12/1993
Carrency	Bid	Offer
Behraini Dinar	1.8350	1.8610
Lebanese Lira*	0.040455	0.041595
Sandi Riyai	0.1830	0.1883
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2250	2.3200
Qatari Riyal	0.1885	0.1915
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2220
Omani Riyal	1.7800	1.8730
UAE Dirham	0.1885	0.1915
Greek Drachma®	0.2825	0.3225
Cypriot Pound	1.3450	1.3865

UAE banks boost capital to meet BIS guidelines

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates [UAE] banks, yielding to government pressure, are boosting their capital to meet adequacy terms set by Bank for International Settlement (BIS), an official

report has showed.

Most of them began to set aside more reserves in 1988, when the BIS's Basle committee issued adequacy guildelines to banks worldwide.

The central hank report showed shareholders' equities of the UAE's 47 banks had steadily risen since 1988 when they stood at 13.4 billion dirhams (\$3.65 billion). They increased to 15.9 billion dirhams (\$4.33 billion) in 1991 and peaked at 16.9 billion dirhams (\$4.6 billion) in 1993.

Assets also streadily grew from 125 billion dirhams (\$34 billion) in December 1988 to 150 billion dirhams (\$40.8 hillion) currently.

That pushed up capital adequacy, the ratio between shareholders' equities and assets, to 11.2 per cent in 1993 from 10.72 per cent in 1988.

'The increase in assets went parallel with the increase in capital," a bank manager said. Many banks had to raise capital itself as their adequacy was low. At present, I think only two or three banks have low adequacy.

Basle's decision, which was enforced early this year, set a floor of eight per cent for adequacy to ensure banks worldwide maintain enough funds to face a financial crisis. Banks which fail to meet that level will find it more difficult

to carry out financial dealings with industrial states.

The decision prompted the UAE and other oil-rich Gulf states to reform their banking sector to ensure compliance.

The higgest reforms were carried out in the UAE as its hanking sector was jolted by the problem of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which is owned 77 per cent by the UAE emirate of Ahu Dhahi.

Bankers said they expected further increases in shareholders's equities, which comprise the capital and reserves, as foreign banks could be forced to raise their capital following central hank restrictions on lending.
"The central bank has de-

cided that all banks operating in the UAE must keep, at all nmes, a capital of at least 10 per cent of their assets, which is higher than the Basle requirement," the enations, bank said in its report.

Officials from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will brief Basle committee on their bank reforms when they meet in Switzerland this month. Gulf states hope they will persuade the committee to drop its classification of them as high risk countries in

Saudi Arabia, the world's leading oil producer and exporter, is the only GCC member that has been excluded from that classification on the grounds it is the fifth largest creditor to the International Monetary Fund.

Study sees growth in GCC states despite low oil price

ABU DHABI (AFP) - Gulf Arab economies will have grown in 1993 despite a decline in their revenues caused by a sharp fall in oil prices, the state-run Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) reported.

The revenues of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are expected to decline by 4.5 per cent to \$74 billion in 1993 from around \$77.5 billion in 1992. EIB said in its monthly bulletin.

"Despite this decline, the GCC economies continued to grow at good rates in 1993 similar to the rates registered in the previous year," it said, "This is due to the fact that such economies have become able to absorb oil price shocks unlike the case in mid 1980s as well as a sharp fall in allocations for infrastructure as most such projects have been com-

ElB give no figures on its forecast growth rates but earlier projections put growth at between five and six per cent.

Growth registered a negative rate of nearly five per cent in 1991 but officials said this was because 1990 was exceptional as oil prices shot to more than \$30 during the Gulf war and pushed the GCC's gross domestic product to a III-year high of \$165 billion.

Despite attempts to diversify their economies, oil still provides more than 81 per cent of the revenues of GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman,

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Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

A sharp drop in crude prices over the past decade has steadily pushed down their earnings, which peaked at over SIND hillion in 1981.

This has created persistent deficits in their budgets and forced most of them to horrow. But officials believe the deficits are still manageable as the six members assume revenues at a minimum oil price level.

"GCC states have gained an experience in calculating their revenues as they depend heavi-ly on oil." a UAE economist said. "I think the average oil price in their budget calculation is \$15 to \$17.

A sharp increase in crude stocks in the industrial countries and in output by independent producers have pushed oil prices to their lowest level in five years, reaching nearly \$7 below OPEC's benchmark of

In the first 11 months of 1993, prices averaged at \$16.68 compared with \$18.40 in 1992, \$18.65 in 1991 and \$22.25 in

EIB said it expected oil revenues of Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude producer and exporter, to reach \$43.5 billion in 1993 compared with \$47.5 billion in 1992. The 1993 figure is below the \$45.1 billion proiected by the kingdom when it released its budget early this year and forecast a deficit of \$7.42 billion.

Turino

Earnings by the UAE are expected to decline to \$12.5 billion in 1993 from \$14.5 billion in 1992 while those by Oman will drop to \$4.8 billion from \$5.2 billion, by Qutar to : \$2.9 billion from \$3.2 billion and by Bahrain to \$800 million . . from Satal million, the study

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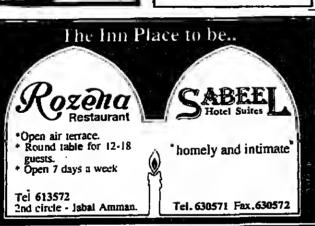
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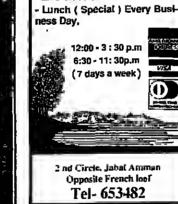
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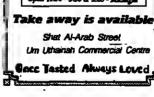




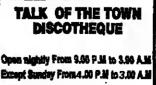












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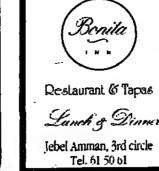
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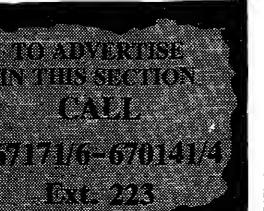




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Trump, Maples

NEW YORK (R) — Donald Trump and model Maria Ma-

ples have decided to marry on

Dec. 20, two New York news-

papers reported Saturday. The

Daily News and the New York Post said Tramp, the bil-

lionaire real estate developer

will be married at Trump's

Plaza Hotel in New York with

their baby Tiffany on hand.

"We really love each other.

and it's important to bring this

baby up in a bappy family environment, the Daily News

quoted Maples as saying. But

what finally moved Trump to

agree to tie the knot was the

massacre of five people by a

crazed gunman on a Long Is-

land commuter train Tuesday. Maples told the Daily News. "When I saw what happened

on the Long Island rail road. I figured life is sbort — and I want to do this now." Trump

told his wife-to-be, the Daily

News reported. The Post.

however, said they settled on

Dec. 20 because neither had

any important appointments.

that evening and their sche-

LONDON (AFP) - An

anonymous buyer paid a record £203,500 (\$305,000) at

auction - 20 times the pre-

estimated price - for the right

to use the car registration num-ber "K1 NGS" on his auto-

mobile. The juxtapositon of

letters and numeral appears to form the appellation, "kings,"

making it a rare and elite car

number. The auction at Christ-

ie's of 80 distinctive numbers

newly-issued by the Driver and

Vehicle Licensing Administra-

tion raised a total of £1.08

million (\$1.5 milbon), of which

90 per cent will go into the

government's Ireasury. The

previous record was set in 1989

when the registration "A1" fetched £176,000 (\$264,000).

Eurodisney invites

PARIS (AP) - With auto-

racing superstar Alain Prost as

master of ceremonies, 6,500 disadvantaged children from

Europe and Canada were

watched as Mickey and his

animated friends cut a giant ribbon that read "Mickey cele-brates the children of the

world." Party organisers plan-

ned numerous special activi-

nes, including a giant parade

and lighting of the park's

Christmas tree. Most of the special guests were from

French households where un-

employment or long-term ill-ness has caused hardship. Ab-

ont 1,000 came from abroad.

Similar celebrations were sche-

duled at the other Disney

theme parks in Florida, Cali-

Eurodisneyland's guests for Mickey Mouse's 65th birthday.
The children and their parents

6,500 to Mickey's

birthday party

dules did not conflict.

Car license

\$305,000

plate sells for

and businessman, and Maples 1

to tie the knot

General alert sounded as Sarajevo is shelled

sounded a general alert in Sarajevo Saturday as besieging Bosnian Serbs pounded the Bosnian capital with tank. artillery and mortar fire.

U.N. peacekeepers said the city had been hit by 250 rounds since Friday in Serb retaliation for an attack on the suburb of Lukavica where the Bosnian Serb army has its headquar-

"The (Muslim-led) Bosnian army assaulted with shelling Lukavica yesterday and I suspect that was part of the reason for the large number coming back," said Bill Aikman. spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UN-

At least one Bosnian shell hit the Serb barracks Saturday morning while U.N. military observers were in the buildings but no casualties were re-

Sarajevo radio said at least two civilians had been wounded in the city by Serb return

The radio said the Muslim-held towns of Zavodovici. Olovo and Maglaj in central Bos-nia and Gorazde in eastern Bosnia had been heavily shel-led during the past 24 hours. U.N. spokesman said Serbs were continuing to hamper convoy relief operations for almost three million civilians at

risk this winter. "I am not sure whether it is isolated commanders in the field doing their own thing or a coordinated effort to pinprick the humanitarian effort to death." Ray Wilkinson for the UNHCR said.

A senior UNPROFOR officer was due to meet the Bosnian Serb army command Sunday to try to unblock stranded .. con-

voys.
Peace envoys David Owen' and Thorvald Stoltenberg have

U.K.,

seek

peace

formula

BRUSSELS (R) — Britain and Ireland Saturday worked on a

formula to bring peace to Nortbern Ireland before

Christmas - but it will have to

convince the gunmen on both

lay down their arms.

could come tomorrow.

sides of the sectarian divide to

British Foreign Secretary Donglas Hurd, offering the en-

ticing prospect of an end to one

of the world's longest-running

guerrilla conflicts, said: "Pcace

agreement between the British

and Irish governments. It de-

pends on the IRA and the

loyalist (Protestant) terrorists

coming to the conclusion that

fighting, killing, murdering is

not going to get them any-

Maintaining the peace momentum. British leader

John Major and Irish Prime

Minister Albert Reynolds met

on the margins of the EC sum-

mit in Brussels Friday, their

second tete-a-tete within a

week. They could meet again

Both sides were strikingly

upbeat afterwards but they still

have to find a formula that will

convince the Irish Republican

Army to end a guerrilla cam-

paign against Britain that has

raged for a quarter of a cen-

Both sides also have to quell

the fears of Northern Ireland's

Protestant majority who fer-

vently want to remain part of

sides working in Brussels on a

joint declaration. Hurd said:

"We do not yet know whether

it will be successful or when

but it is being carried on

"We may be able to produce

a declaration. That work is not

finished. Certainly we hope it

will influence the men of vio-

lence, the murderers. But one

Protestant extremists, who

bave killed 40 people in North-

ern Ireland this year, on Friday

united their various groups to

put out a rare joint statement.

the IRA, saying "the shameful point-scoring" of the past must be left behind.

Protestants, pledging that Britain would never "soften or

abandon" the principle that

the province remains part of

the United Kingdom so long as

the majority wants it to remain

Mr. Hurd sought to reassure

It offered an olive branch to

cannot be sure of that."

With officials from both

in London next week.

tury.

urgently."

But be was cautious, saying: "Peace does not depend on

Ireland

between the warring sides in Geneva on Dec. 21 to try to reach agreement on plans to divide Bosnia into three ethnic

European Community foreign ministers are alsn expected to meet Muslim. Croat and Serb leaders on the eve of the talks, it was announced in

The meetings will take place immediately after parliamen-tary elections in Serhia. The Geneva talks would

bring together President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia to discuss the key issues of a peace settlement to the 20month civil war.

They include Muslim de-mands for three to four per cent more land seized by the Serb and for access to ' the Adrianc Sea for their future territory, which would otherwise be landlocked.

In Belgrade, the foreign minister of the self-styled Bosnian Serb Republic, Aleksa Buha. was quoted by Tanju news agency as saying a European Community plan for the Serbs to relinquish a little more territory in exchange for the gradual lifting of sanctions on Serbia had set the peace talks back to square one. Mr. Buha said the Muslims

were avoiding a definitive solu-tion for the former Yugoslav republic in the hope they would eventually take over the whole territory.

For their part the Bosnian Foreign Ministry Thursday rejected an invitation to new peace talks. That invitation was for a meeting in Salonika, this Sunday, which was quickly postponed after preliminary soundings with Serbian leaders in Belgrade failed to make sufficient progress.

The Bosnians complained in a letter to Lord Owen and Mr. Stoltenberg that as there had been no progress in Geneva on territorial concessions or sea access, they saw no point in a new round.

European Community (EC) leaders are ready to strengthen sanctions against the Serbs unless they make further concessions for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia accordng to a draft statement

aturday. The draft, which awaited approval by the EC summit in Brussels, also invited the warring Bosnian parties to Brussels on Dec. 22 in a new bid to unblock talks on ending the 20month-old conflict.

The EC leaders said "enormous obstacles" remained in the Geneva peace talks and singled out the separatist Serbs for refusing to make additional territorial concessions to the Muslim-led government.
It said the Muslims should

have access to the Adrianc Sea after the ethnic division of Bosnia, and their claim to a third of the land — up from the 30 per cent currently on offer was legitimate.

Any division of Sarajevo must include U.N. guarantees of free movement of the city's people, the draft said.
The 12-member EC has said

was ready to progressively lift sanctions imposed on the Serbs' sponsors in Serbia and Montenegro if they made a genuine effort at peace in Bos-nia and the Serb-held Krajina region of Croatia.

But the draft summit declaration warned that if no such moves were made the EC would seek to tighten application of the current economic embargo and even strengthen

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clintons join in gun control plea

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pledging tougher gun controls, President Bill Clinton said Friday that America is too violent and it 'makes a mockery of all the things we say we believe.' Hillary Rodham Clinton joined her husband in asking new measures on crime. "I really think we should have much harsher, longer sentences for violent offenders, keep them put away longer..." the first lady said. "We've been building prisons very fast in our country but we're throwing into our prisons people who are white collar criminal and nonviolent criminals along with our violent criminals," she said. "And we're letting out our violent criminals along with our nonviolent ones because of the problems of cost and overcrowding. The president spoke about crime during an Oval Office ceremony and then discussed the suspicet in a joint appearance with Mrs. Clinton on a television show. Asked his hopes for the new year, Mr. Clinton replied, "my hope is that we will achieve more peace on earth next year, peace in the Middle East, relief of tensions in other places in the world but mostly that the American people will find a way to bring peace to our own streets, our own homes, our own communities." "Our nation is too violent," the president continued. "It makes a mockery of all the things we say we believe. It is turning the joy of childhood into a tragedy for too many millions of children. And I'm going to work real hard next year to have more peace on this piece of earth that we inhabit in the United

China returns remains of U.S. soldiers

BEIJING (AFP) - China handed over Saturday the remains of three U.S. servicemen who died when their military transport jet crashed into a Tibertan glacier some 50 years ago. Xinhua reported. The plane's wreckage and the servicemen's remains were discovered by chance by local residents in September some 4,100 metres (12,300 feet) above sea level in eastern Tibet's Lyingchi Prefecture, the agency said. They were handed over with a few helongings of U.S. representatives in a ceremony at the airport here and were repatriated no a U.S. Air Force plane, it said. The plane is thought to have gone down in April 1943 and to have been part of the so-called hump airlift," a dangerous route over the Himalayas opened in 1942 hy Beijing and Washington when the Japa nese cut off all other routes out of China. Hundreds of planes crashed and more than 1,000 crew members died using the route. Xinhua

Malaysia ends row with Australia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Malaysia called an end Saturday to a row with Australia triggered by Australian Prime Minister Paul Feating's criticism of Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohammad. The maner should now be regarded as closed," a statement issued by Mr. Mahatbir's office said after the Malaysian leader chaired a meeting of his cabinet to discuss the controversy. The cabinet decision was reached after considering Mr. Keating's expression of regret over the fracas Wednesday, the statement said. Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the cabinet's move to end the row with Australia was "a unanimous decision." "Normal relations between both the countries will resume and this is the end of Mr. Anwar said. A spokesman for Mr. Keating in Canberra said the prime minister would not be making any comment until he received an official statement from Malaysia. Mr. Keating had on Nov. 22 called Mr. Mahathir u "recalcitrant" for refusing to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit hosted by U.S. President Bill

Bhutto brother sees split in family

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) - The jailed brother of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto accused his sister Saturday of ousting their mother as head of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) because she is afraid of him. The soap opera-style differences within Pakistan's first family have filled front pages in local newspapers, although few analysts expect the feud to have a significant impact on the strength of the newly elected prime minister. "She most prohably feels insecure and this is why she has done this." Murtaza told reporters when he apepared for a hearing at a special court for speedy trial. 1 have never said that I want to be chairman of the party." said Murtaza, 39, only surviving son of Pakistan's first popularly elected prime minister, the late Zufikar Ali Bhuno. He attacked the effective internal party coup by the 40-year-old prime minister last Sunday, when she ousted their mother, Nusrat, as party chairwoman and took over as sole leader of the PPP, founded by Zulkar Ali Bhutto in the 1960s. "She has stabbed me in the hack." said Nusrat, sitting beside her sun in the court.



U.S. writer Toni Morrison is congratulated by Swedish King Carl Gustav after she received the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature during the awarding ceremony in Stockholm (AFP

Nobel laureates honoured in Sweden and Norway

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)
— Having revolutionised their fields — by unlocking genetic secrets, discovering a new kind of star, explaining history or writing poetic novels about race — the 1993 Nobel Prize winners took their bows

The nine laureates in literature, medicine, physics, chemistry and economics gathered at Stockholm's Concert House to receive the 6.7 million kronor (\$790,000) prizes and gold medals from King Carl XVI Gustaf.

Earlier, Nelson Mandela and President F.W. De Klerk of South Africa received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, where they spoke about overcoming years of vio-lence and suspicion to bring

the hope of peace and demo-cracy to their country.

"It was not easy for the supporters of Mr. Mandela, or mine, to relinquish the ideals they bad cherished for many decades. But we did it," Mr. De Klerk said in his lecture. "And because we did it, there is bope.

Mr. Mandela interpreted the prize as a call from the world to continue work toward a nonracial democracy in Sontb Africa, despite daily blood-

By focusing on the black experience in the United States, novelist "Toni Morrison has given the Afro-Amerpiece by piece," Swedish Academy Secretary Sture Allen said in prepared remarks introducing the first black American winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature.

"Sbe regards the African presence in ber country as a vital but unarticulated prerequisite for the fulfilment of the American dream," said Mr. Allen. "Similarly, she sees witnesses, in literature as having blackness as its constant companion, the racial other as its shadow.

PUNE, India (AFP) - Thirty-

three children and three

teachers out on a weekend

picnic died Saturday when a

train ploughed into a crammed

school bus at an unguarded rail

crossing near this western Indi-

Forty-five other junior-

grade children were injured

when the express train dragged

the crowded vehicle for almost

230 feet (75 metres) on its

an city, officials said.

Morrison, 62, teaches at Princeton University in New

The discovery in 1977 that human genes were as complex as a mosaic earned the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medi-cine for Richard J. Roberts, 50, of Derby, England and Phillip A. Sharp, 49, of Fal-

mouth, Kentucky. The "scientific sensation" that genes came in separate segments in higher animals was revolutionary, triggering an explosion of new scientific contributions," said Bertil Daneholt of the Karolinska In-

stitute's Nobel Assembly." Today this discovery is of fundamental importance for research in biology as well as in

The winners of the physics prize — Russell Hulse, 43, and Joseph H. Taylor, 52, of Princeton University - revolutionised their field in the same way, with the sighting in 1974 of the first binary pulsar.

The collapsing, whirling, massively dense twin star emits radio signals that sweep across space. The Hnlse-Taylor Pulsar provides a laboratory to observe Alfred Einstein's Theory of Relativity and raises the possibility that gravitational waves may someday be de-tected, said Carl Nordling of the Royal Swedish Academy of

The academy's Carl-Ivar Branden described how chemistry prize winners Kary Mullies, 48, of La Jolla, California, and Michael Smith, 61, of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver enabled scientists to more easily and rapidly duplicate and manipulate

genes.
"Smith developed a general method for producing mutations in a gene... at specific positions," said Mr. Branden. The results: New antibodies that kill cancer cells, and plants engineered to produce proteins rich in amino acids, like meat.

high-speed, rescuers and police

bloodiest involving children in

recent times in India, occurred at 11:50 a.m. 10625 GMT) at

the unguarded Ramdas Gate

Crossing about 12 kilometres

from Pune, the Railway Police

Parents wailing in grief con-

verged on Pune's Sassoon Hos-

pital where the dead and in-

The train-hus crash, the

160 feared trapped after Malaysia building collapses

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Rescue workers battled to save up to 160 people feared trap-ped after a 12-storey apartment building collapsed with a noise "like a quarry blast" Saturday.

A rescue worker carrying wbat looked like a toddler was seen gingerly descending a ladder while another worker kissed a baby he bad pulled from the beaps of rubble in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur. Police said they feared up to

160 people were still trapped.
They said the first survivor to be rescued was a three-yearold boy pulled from ruins by firemen and rushed to Kuala Lumpur General Hospital suffering from shock and leg injuries. The hospital was alerted to expect more casualties.

Witnesses saw several injured people rushed away by helicopter or ambulance, but officials could not immediately give an estimate of casualties.

Highland Towers, one of the first high-rise luxury apartments in Kuala Lumpur when it was built in 1979, collapsed at around 1.40 p.m. (0540 GMT), strewing debris down the hillside on which it stood in the expensive Ulu Klang Neighbourhood.

A maid who worked in the apartment building, which bad 44 apartments and two penthouses, said many South Koreans. Japanese and Pakistanis

The cause of the collapse was not immediately known, although it has been raining heavily for several weeks at the height of the rainy season. As well as firemen and other

rescue workers, federal troops were on the scene. Cranes lifted stretchers down the hillside and two air force helicopters hovered over the site.

A security guard at Highland Towers, V. Anbalagan, said: "It was like a quarry blast and the building fell flat instantly." He saw a maid running out carrying a baby and crying that

her employer was still trapped inside. He said the employer was the son of former Deputy Prime Minister Musa Hitam. Residents from two other apartment buildings nearby,

including many expatriates, were evacuated after police became concerned that they were also in danger of collapse.

Television pictures showed

residents of the evacuated buildings, with a few belongings hastily snatched from their apartments, watching the rescue work.

'People were covered in dust and there was lots of screaming," said the daughter of a European diplomat

staying at a nearby bouse.
"My schoolmate, she's a Korean, was taken to bospital. I
also know a family living on the first floor and am waiting to bear about them," said the ; girl., who did not want to be named.

U.S. adamant on North Korea nuclear inspections

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States told North Korea Friday that Pyongyang must open its nuclear facilities to inspection, and President Bill Clinton said he still has hopes negotiations will eventually bear fruit.

The While House announced that State Department officials met representarives of North Korea in New York and that they did not yield to Pyongyang's insistence it would only allow limited nuclear inspections.

Spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said the Americans underscored U.S. demands that North Korea open all its nuclear sites to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and resume dialogue with South Korea on a nuclear-free penin-

"We reminded them that we want full IAEA inspections of their nuclear sites and a resumption of the dialogue with South Korea," Ms. Myers said. 'We've made our response clear to them. And so it is now with them."

There was no immediate comment from North Korea on the latest in a series of bighstakes encounters with Washington, which says in-

Parents flooded the hospital

as doctors sent out an SOS to

Bomhay and other neighbour-

ing cities for blood and

surgeons amid reports that

several of those injured were in

the hospital as private physi-cians in Punc volunteered to

help the injured victims, many

of them writhing in pain and

wailing for their parents. wit-

Railway doctors moved intn

critical condition.

spections are essential to preventing a new nuclear power arising to menace South Korea and all of Asia.

"The ball is now in their court," Under-Secretary of State Lynn Davis told reporters ar the State Department. "(Our) goals baven't changed and their efforts to find ways to receive inspectors

but not do enough for what it is that the IAEA needs is not acceptable...They need to work with the IAEA to give the international community confidence that there bas been no diversion of these nuclear materials.

Clinton seemed glad the two sides were talking. On Wednesday he had signalled he was not sure whether a "full blown crisis" could be avoided.

We have some bope for the continuing discussions." he said Friday. "If you've asked me, have I given up on the discussions, the answer is no. We're aggressively pursuing

Pyongyang bad warned it would break off talks with the United States if Washington did not accept a proposal it put forward last week that continued to bar international access to two critical nuclear faci-

"It is a nightmare," said an

army doctor at the complex

filled with mauled children. A

military medical college in

Pune. India's largest, geared up to take in some of the badly

injured, army officials said.

The victims were aged be-

tween seven and 10 years and

belonged to the privately-run

Natbaji Purandare School in

Pune, Sub-Inspector Dhanan-

fornia and Japan. Train kills 33 children, 3 teachers on picnic in India Canadian zoo

slaughters 447 animals MONTREAL (AP) - A Canadian zoo was forced to slaughter 447 animals - in-

cluding zebras, yaks and ihex - in an effort to keep a deadly disease from spreading Friday's slaughter left Pare Safari in Hemmingford. Ouebec. with only 168 animals and a questionable future. This is probably the darkest day of my life. co-owner Jean-Pierre Ranger said as the animals were being shipped to a nearhy slaughterhouse. The order to destroy all animals except those considered unique or on the endangered-species list came from Agriculture Canada. In May, the government agency found tuberculosis-like lesions in the organs of an eland antelope, a symptom of bovine tuberculosis. Following tests. 79 animals most likely to have been in contact with the antelope were destroyed. They included bison, exotic bighorned cattle, other antelopes. enus and fallow deer. Officials were forced to destroy another 116 animals last month, including llamas, elks, white-tailed deer and camel-like guanacos from South America. The latest slaughter order spared only 168 animals, including Bengal and Siberian tigers, lions. African elephants, giraffes, chimpanzees, arctic wolves, addaxes (a species of antelope), Japanese macaques. brown and black bears, and extremely rare white rhinos. Andre Legris, an Agriculture Canada veterinarian, said destruction of the animals is standard policy to prevent an epidemic when one or several animals in a herd has a contagious disease. "They were all

exposed and we can't tell-

which ones have the disease so

we decided to take the eradica-

tion foute," Legris said.

jay Jadhav of the Railway Police in Pune said. tracks after slamming into it at China warns of possible early Hong Kong takeover

BEIJING (AFP) — China warned Saturday it would not sit back and allow Britain to create "turmoil" in Hong Kong and endorsed previous threats by senior leader Deng Xiaoping of an early takeover

of the colony. At the end of a three-day meeting of the Beijing-appointed Preparatory Work Committee, widely regarded as Hong Kong's shadow government, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Premier Li Peng slammed Britain's move to submit partial electoral reform proposals to Hong Kong's legislature. Committee Chairman Oian

said it was an example of Britain's efforts to create "manmade turmoil" in the colony before its reversion to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, as pre-dicted by Mr. Deng in the early

"We must be on the alert against this," said Mr. Qian. 'Obviously we hope to control disorder through cooperation and cut down possible trouble to a minimum. But if cooperation breaks down, we cannot sit back and watch disorder in Hong Kong.'

Therefore, he said, the committee should intensify efforts

(علدًا صد الأصل

to ensure a smooth transfer under the "one country, two systems" principle, and in par-ticular begin discussing concrete plans for forming a new legislature in 1997.

The 57-member committee, in a communique released after their meeting, endorsed re-cently published 11-year-old comments by Mr. Deng which included a warning that China may be forced to take Hong Kong back before the agreed date of July 1, 1997 if turmoil broke out during the transition

Mr. Deng's comments on Hong Kong "possess great foresight and they have important guiding significance for the Preparatory Committee," the communique said. Mr. Qian's remarks followed

the gazetting Friday in Hong Kong of a partial reform package for 1994 District Board and 1995 Legislative Council elections, after 17 rounds of Sino-British talks failed to reach agreement. The bill is to go before the legislature Wednesday. China, which has repeatedly

warned any unilateral steps by Britain on electoral reform would result in new elections on its terms in 1997, has blamed Hong Kong Governor

Chris Patten's move for the breakdown of talks. Premier Li, saying that Lon-don "should naturally bear ail

the consequences," warned the sonring of Sino-British ties over Hong Kong may also affect Brilain's broader interests in China.
"It is very hard to say that

the British government's unfriendly, uncooperative attitude will not influence other areas of Sino-British relarions," Mr. Li said.

In Hong Kong, there was mixed reaction to the news. Independent legislator Emily Lau, one of a number of lawmakers China bas threatened to kick out off the lawmaking body in 1997, said she doubted Beijing would wisb to "kill the golden

"But we cannot take Peking for granted as we bave seen the atrocities they are capable of and are capable of again."
Fellow Legislator Ronald Arculli of the Liberal Party

said, in a radio interview, he could not imagine any situation before 1997 in which Kong Kong would be in turmoil "so in terms of an early takeover I can't actually see that it will

. Harking back to the 19th century "unequal" treaties under which Hong Kong be-came a British colony, Mr. Qian accessed Britain of never truly accepting it would lose administrative control over the Chinese land it had "occupied.

He said some people refused to "step down from the historical stage" and continued to seek to extend British influence in Hong Kong beyond

Stepping up the battle for the hearts and minds of the Hong Kong people, the Chinese foreign minister stressed the Preparatory Commit-tee "is thinking the things that Hong Kong people are think-ing, worrying about the things over which Hong Kong people are worried.'

Committee Segretary General Lu Ping in a final-day report that the committee's sub-groups — political, economic, legal, cultural and security had agreed in principle on

work programmes.
In the first six months of next year the sub-groups would hold meetings on concrete points and present reports to the committee's next meeting in July, Mr. Lo said.

Capriati gets police citation for shoplifting Compagnoni leads; Wachter and

age .sensation Jennifer Capriati, whose meteoric rise to tennis stardom stalled this year, was issued a police citation after walking away from a kiosk with a \$15 ring on her finger, her agent said.

The agent, Barhara Perry, denied television reports saying police arrested Capriati, a 17-year-old who was the youngest player ever to turn

Because Capriati is 17. Tam-pa police said they could not discuss the incident, which occurred Thursday night.
Perry said Friday the ninth-

ranked women's tennis player was wearing several rings when she stopped at a jewerly kiosk in a Tampa shopping

Perry said Capriati "inadvertently walked away with one of the rings from the booth still on her finger. The citation carries no civil or criminal penalties and requires no further action.

When stopped after she and friends left the booth, she discovered that she was still wearing the ring and the ring was returned," Perry's statement said

Capriati has tournament earnings of \$357,108 for the year, with career tournament earnings of \$1.49 million. She

By Aleen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With just two weeks left in the 1993 basket-

ball season, the final competi-

tion of the year looks no diffe-

rent than what fans and players

have been accustomed to

Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi

lead the standings with Al

Jazireh firmly secured in third

place, while the two newcom-

ers have not been able to bold

on their first division slots and

thus seem destined to be rele-

Four matches are lined up Sunday as Al Jalil, who lost third place to Al Jazireh in the

past two seasons, face Al Watani in the most-heated

over Al Hussein in double

overtime in the competition's

first round, will try to over-

come Ai Jalil and consolidate

their standing before facing Al

Hussein next week. Al Jalil had won their first round en-

Al Watani lost 117-54 (53-

26) to Al Ahli last week, while

Al Jalil scored an easy 84-54

win over Al Ashrafieh, the first

half ending 43-28.
Al Jazireh, who lost by a

week will definitely score a big

win over Al Wifaq who have so

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH 903 Tribuse Media Services,

North-South vulnerable. South

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SOUTH

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Opening lead: King of &
There are players who will tell
partner: "Don't worry about signalling. I'll work out what to do!" Our
attitude is that defense is the most

difficult facet of the game and any

help we can get from partner is more

est. North jumped to four hearts, since there was a possibility partner might think a raise to three hearts was manely competitive. And East-West, having pushed the enemy to

nan welcome. The auction is not without inter-

North East 4 V 4 4 Pass Pass

far lost all their matches.

mere 11 points to former champions Al Orthodoxi last

match of the day.

counter 83-68.

throughout the years.

ilis for

STORY FORE

A. Act 6

3n 200

11.5 447

Al Ahli, Al Orthodoxi

poised for annual clash

Sixth-place Al Watani, now Al Hussein easily defeated in fifth place after an 80-78 win over Al Hussein and 180-78 win week but they will accord

GOREN BRIDGE

DEFENSE IS A MATTER OF TRUST

has earned millions more from lucrative cadorsement contracts with Diadora sportawear, Prince rackets and privducts such as Oil of Olay. Gatorade, Rolex and Snapple.

A police citation is issued for misdemeanors and is a summons to appear in court. according to one experienced Florida lawyer. In such cases, juveniles often qualify for a pre-trial programme that drops the charge and avoids a court

Capriati hurst onto the tennis scene at age 14 in 1990) and was touted as the next Chris

An employee at the Tampa Bay Centre Shopping Mall told television station WFLA that he alerted security officers after he saw Capriali walk away from the kiosk with the ring.

"She was over there trying on rings. Both of them were trying on rings and there were a couple she did not take off. That's when I alerted secur-Doug Fulton, a shopping mall employee, told the television station

Capriati lives at the Saddleh rook luxury resort complex in Wesley Chapel, about 30 miles (45 km) from Tampa, and attends high school in Tampa. Coached by her father. Capriati appeared to be living up to her advance hilling when she

Al Orthodoxi's 83-72 win

over Al Jazireh might serve as

a good early warning to their players and Russian coach if

Murad Barakat, who has lately

appeared well-helow his usual

In another match, Al Hus-

sein will take on titleholders Al

Ahli, who now lead the stand-

ings after their 70-60 win over

Al Orthodoxi in the first round

it all they've got when they

play Al Ahli at the Sports

Palace in Amman. Al Ahli had

won their first round match



Jennifer Capriati

became the youngest ever Grand Slam semifinalist at the 1990 French Open and the youngest seed (12th) in Grand Slam history at the 1990 Wimb-

The highlight of her career came in 1992 when she beat Steffi Graf to win the Olympic

gold medal in Barcelona.

MAKUHARI, Japan (AFP)
— Defending champion Surya Bonaly of France overcame a bout of 'flu, new boost and an indifferent start to retain her

The three-times European champion, who managed only third place in the technical programme Friday after failing to land a triple lutz, executed an immaculate free skating programme to beat overnight leader Yuka Sato into second

"I'm pretty much satisfied with my performance today, because I've been suffering from a high fever of 40 degrees

changed my skating shoes last week," said Bonaly, who picked up an influenza virus in

show off her signature quadru-ple jump due to the new shoes and 'flu, she performed four different triple jumps and two types of doubles, four of them combination jumps.

all bronze medal. American Tonya Harding

finished fourth overall. since a week ago, besides I

ABIDJAN (R) - Ghana and

and embroidery.

competitive prices in Jordan.

Al Ahli's veterans will be joining the team after two weeks of rest while the team's promising new line-up of play-

At Irbid's Al Hassan Sports City, Al Orthodoxi play Al Absrafieh in the fourth match of the day. The former champions had scored a 150-70 win over the newcomers in the first round match.

five hearts, followed the old truism that the the level belongs to the opposition and sold out.

West led the king of spades and

East had to decide whether to en-courage with a high spade or dis-courage by following low. Since West was marked with six spades for the weak jump overcall and thus a second trick in the suit was not

available, and because a diamond shift would be more than welcome,

East opted to discourage by playing

the dece.

The spotlight now shifts to West.
If that defender ignores pertner's signal and perseveres with spades, declarer can get home by ruffing the spade, cashing the ace of trumps, then running clubs for a diamond discard. East refuses to ruff, but is then thrown in with a heart. Whethers Feet chapses to return a dis-

enen thrown in with a heart. Whether East chooses to return a diamond, giving declarer two tricks there, or yield a ruff-shiff, the contract sails safely into port.

A trusting West will switch the attack at trick two but to addition

attack at trick two, but to which

suit? East's two carries no suit-preference message; it simply says don't lead another spade. The correct shift is obviously a diamond. If declarar has a club loser, there probable is a place to get it is but

bly is no place to get rid of it, but a diamond might disappear on a club.

Bonaly does it again

women's singles title at the NHK Trophy Figure Skating competition here Saturday.

they wish to regain the title they won throughout the Al Jazireh had won the first half 41-39 but could not hold onto the lead which Al Orthodoxi's more experienced players quickly converted to their place overall. advantage and secured the win in the absence of team captain

Finland a week ago.
Although Bonaly didn't

The Parisienne, performing to Parisienne, performing to Vivaldi's Four seasons, wrap-ped up her performance with a Biellmann spin. Another favourite, Chen Lu

of China, took second place in the free skating and the over-

Ghana, Ivory Coast clubs banned after violence

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Ivory Coast clubs have been hanned from next year's three African soccer competitions because of violence in the two neighbouring countries, the Ivorian government daily Fraternite-Matin reported

by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) after at least 25 people were killed following a match on Oct. 31. "We have decided to withers managed to continue their team's winning streak.

draw all the Ivorian and Ghanaian teams from African com-petitions next season," CAF President Issa Hayatou told Fraternite-Matin's correspondent in Cairo Friday. Hayatou said the two countries' teams had been excluded from the draw for the first round of the Champions', Cup Winners' and CAF Cups. He said CAF feared more violence if Ghanaian and Ivorian teams were paired with each

He added: "We chose to withdraw these two countries from club competitions until the two federations and the political authorities give us the assurance that everything is hack to normal. "It is a tough decision but an

unavoidable one."

Merle eliminated in Alpine

(R) — Italy's Deborah Compagnoni took a comfortable lead in the first leg of a World Cup giant slalom Saturday but an early fall for Anita Wachter of Austria put he overall title holder out of the race.

It was a bad day too for world champion and giant sla-lom World Cup holder Carole Merle of France who tumbled at the same gate as Wachter on the icy course.

Frenchwomen Sophie Lefranc, second in the opening giant slalom of the Alpine ski season in Soelden, missed a gate and Austrian veteran Svivia Eder was also eliminated.

Compagnoni skied the first leg in one minute 14.31 seconds, just over half a second ahead of Germany's Martina Ertl, whose best result to date was second place in a giant slalom at Lillehammer last season.

A win in Veysonnaz would

23-year-old Compagnoni, the Olympic super-G champion, after she eclipsed Wachter in the giant slalom at Tignes last

Wachter's fall came after two wins and two second places in the first four giant slatoms of the season.

But the Austrian remains out of reach in the overall World Cup standings. Nearest rival Vreni Schneider of Switzerland, who was only ninth fastest and nearly three seconds off the pace in the first leg, is 118 points behind Wachter in the standings. A win carriers 100 points.

Olympic giant slalom cham-pion Pernilla Wiherg of Sweden was lying third after the first leg on 1:15.50, just over one second ahead of Germany's Christina Meier.

Organisers, who called off a downhill hecause of warm weather Friday, said the piste contend with fairly strong winds at the 1.875-metre starting hut.

leg, Compagnoni, 23, skied 15th on the second leg when falling snow and a badly rutted piste made conditions difficult.

was icy and visibility was getting had," she said. "In the end it was rhythm rather than speed that worked.

"I feel in great form and hope to stay this way for the rest of the World Cup season

Saturday's win was Com-

As the leader after the first

"The snow was harder, it

and for the Olympics," added Compagnoni, who won her first giant slalom in Tignes. France, last weekend.

panoni's first major triumph outside France. Her three previous World Cup race wins and her 1992 Olympic victory all

from the public. They've been

behind me. I suppose it was the

Sporting by Portugal's national

Sousa Cinta said in a statement

Friday, Rohson's departure

followed Sporting's unex-

pected elimination from the

UEFA Cup Tuesday when they let slip a 2-0 first leg lead

to go out 3-2 on aggregate to unfancied Austria Salzburg.

team boss, Carlos Queiros.

Robson is being replaced at

Sporting President Jose

defeat in Salzhurg that did it."

came on French snow. Ertl said a tough summer

training schedule had paid off and she aimed to improve on her seventh overall position in the World Cup last season.

She said she had learnt a lot ... from her mor: experienced team mate Latja Seizinger. who finished fifth Saturday, 1.13 seconds behind fourth-placed Heidi Zeller-Baehler of

Switzerland. Wachter, who was unhurt, attributed her fall to an icy patch, two-thirds of the way down the slope.

"I was a bit of a test-pilot for the run being the first one off but I found the slope very difficult with some parts soft and others icy.." she said.

Other first-led fallers included Frenchwoman Sophie Lefranc, who took second place in the opening giant slalong of the season in Soelden. Austria, and Austria's Sylvia Eder, taking part in her 13th season of World Cup skiing.

Bobby Robson short-listed for England return

LONDON (Agencies) --- Bobby Robson, sacked by Sporting Lisbon Friday, has been shortlisted for a return as England

Jimmy Armfield, appointed hy the English Football Association as adviser in their hid to find a successor to Graham Taylor, was reported in Saturday's Sun newspaper as saying that Robson was among his three favourites for the post.

Armfield, who did not reveal the other two names, told the tabloid: "The fact Bohhy is leaving Sporting means we have another name to conjure

"I can't say how the F.A. will respond, but everyone knows how experienced Bobby is. I now have a clear idea of what I shall present to the committee when we meet again before Christmas."

Should the F.A. not reappoint Robson, who steered England to the World Cup semifinals in 1990, he could be in line for the Everton vacancy following Howard Kendall's resignation last weekend.

Everton twice tried to attract Robson when he was with Ipswich in the 1970s and Chairman David Marsh promised

Saturdy to "consider all suitable candidates as soon as

Robson's age — he is 60 — is against him and he has not been involved in English cluh foothall since leaving lpswich for the England joh in 1982.

Ex-Everton midfield player Peter Reid, now with Southampton, appears to be the favourite, with former Crystal Palace boss Steve Coppell, who has been out of football for seven months, not far be-

Robson was "stunned, bewildered, shocked" by his axing after 18 months in charge of the Portuguese giants, which came just days after Sporting's midweek defeat hy Salzhurg which knocked them out of the UEFA Cup.

"I just can't believe it," he added, "We're top of the table, level with Benfica, whom we play in a fortnight, and I'm out.

"But this is a different culture ont here. Still it takes some understanding. As for discussing my future, I haven't come to grips with this yet.

"We've been on top from the start of the season, we've got a good young side and

"It was easy for us to reach an agreement," Sousa Cintra said, hinting that the club wanted Robson to leave and he did so without much regret. "This decision does not call into question Robson's pre-

stige. I am still his friend but Robson belongs to the past. "If he goes to train another club, Sporting will not pay him any compensation. But if he remains inactive the club will

added in emphasising the mutual parting of the ways, Sousa Cintra did not say how much money was at stake. Robson was in his second season with Sporting with his contract due to expire in June next

year.
"Nobody understands why Robson altered the line-up in Austria to change it from an attacking team to a defensive one," Sousa Cintra said.
"We were eliminated by an

undistinguished club with no petitions.

Meanwhile, former England and Southend winger Peter Taylor has returned to the first division club as manager in succession to Barry Fry, who left Roots Hall for Birmingham City Friday. Taylor, who has been managing non-league Hendon. commented: "This is the fulfilment of a lifetime ambition for me, Southened is the only club that I would have returned to

full time football for. Ex-England and Liverpool full-back Phil Neal is expected to sign a new three-year contract next week, nearly a month after being appointed Coventry manager.

"There's nothing sinister in the delay," he told Saturdy's Sun newspaper. "We've just heen so busy. There simply hasn't heen a chance to sort everything out."



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Former French Open champion Chang put up a typically fighting performance before the Wimhledon champion clinched a 7-6 6-3 victory. He will

MUNICH (R) - Michael meet Czech Pétr Korda in the semifinals.

m the second quarterfinal.

Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg will clash in the other

semifinal. Sampras. \$500,000 appearance bonus for iust turning up in Munich.

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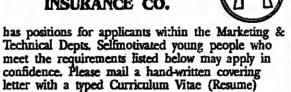
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Rabin plans return to Masri pledges neutrality and 1967 borders—report

government is secretly drafting plans for a return to the 1967 borders and the establishment of a Palestinian state, proposals that for the first time are being considered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rahin, the

Jerusalem Post has reported. The plans deal only with the West Bank and Gaza, and not the Golan Heights, the Post said. Senior government sources, disputing Rabin's in-sistence that he refuses to consider these issues until at least 1996, say the government has drafted numerons plans for a withdrawal which would include the Jordan Valley. Jerusalem is not included in the plan and only minor changes in the 1967 border would be

made, The Post said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin is coordinating these plans with the approval of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, according to sources quoted by the Post.

The Post said: Both men want the plans implemented before the right-wing opposition can foil them. Peres and Beilin are urging that the negotiations for a permanent settlement begin after the establishment of a Palestinian council on selfrule, scheduled for July.

A three-month investigation by The Jerusalem Post has revealed that Rahin has not ruled out these plans. Sources close to the prime minister say Rabin has acknowledged the inevitability of a Palestinian state, and his mission is to ensure that it will not harm the Jewish state.

"The phrase he uses is that the level of Palestinian independence is dependent on the level of security for Israel," a

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon said Saturday U.S. Secretary of

State Warren Christopher's fa-

ilure to visit the country during

his Middle East peace mission

Christopher's failure to

visit Lebanon is a gap that is

not justified whatever the

Foreign Minister Faris Bouez

"Excuses like lack of time

and security reasons are not

justified. There are issues con-

cerning Lebanon's position

and it was important that

Christopher should hear about

Mr. Bouez' comment was

the first official reaction to Mr.

Christopher's decision to

hypass Lebanon on his eight-

day tour during which he vi-sited Syria and Israel twice.

Jordan. Egypt. Tunisia and

Some Beirut newspapers

said the decision was the result

of the Lehanese government

tying its stance closely to

Svria's in Middle East peace

ers excluded themselves from

the great Middle East bazaar

through their own compliance.

excessive zeal for 'cooperation'

(with Syria) and sometimes even servility?" the French-

language daily L'Orient-Le Jour

"Have they not publicly

trumpeted their determination

to advance, to stop, to draw

hack in the negotiations in step

BAALBEK, Lebanon (Agen-

cies) — The leader of the

pro-Iranian Hizbollah move-

ment on Saturday again

offered an exchange of Israeli

soldiers held in Lehanon for Lebanese and Palestinian de-

tainees held in Israeli prisons. "Hizbollah is willing to dis-

cuss the matter of Israeli sol-

diers and mercenaries of the

(Israeli-hacked) South Leba-

non Army (SLA) which it

holds in exchange for the re-

lease of all those detained in

prisons of the Israeli occupa-

tion." Sheikh Hassan Nasral-

lah said in a statement handed

to reporters in the eastern

Sheikh Nasrallah's state-

ment hinted at a new flexibility

in Hizhollah's position on the

missing Israelis which could

indicate the influence of Syria.

the undisputed authority in

creasing pressure to accelerate

stalled negotiations with Israel

under the U.S.-sponsored

peace process. Syrian Presi-

dent Hafez Al Assad is sche-

duled to meet President Bill

Clinton in Geneva next month.

Four days ago, the move-

The Syrians are under in-

Lehanese city of Baaibek.

Remains of Israelis for

Arab detainees — Hizbollah

asked on Saturday.

"Have not Lehanon's lead-

American minister says,

tola Belfut Kadio

them." he said.

Могоссо.

talks.

this week was inexcusable.

Christopher angers

Beirut government

Rabin source says.
Through interviews wilb scores of senior Israeli, U.S. and PLO officials, parliamentarians, negotiators and di-plomats, The Post has learned of the government's conceptions, which bave already been shown to several senior minis-

following:

 The government is ready to withdraw from nearly all of the West Bank and Gaza. The exceptions are several Jewish neighbourhoods in Jerusalem and minor border changes in the West Bank. Areas the Labour Party declared it would keep under any future settlement, are not to be retained.

- The government is ready to permit the establishment of a Palestinian state. — Senior ministers have begun secret talks with PLO rep-

resentatives on the future of — The government is ready to dismantle some settlements and raise money from the U.S.

to buy out many of the 130,000 settlers in the territories. The price for this is estimated hy the foreign ministry at \$10 hil-The prime minister bas tried to shroud the issue in secrecy, government sources say. He has refused to answer ques-tions on the permanent settle-

ment in the Knesset foreign

affairs and defence committee,

which until this year, regularly

discussed such sensitive information. Parliamentary sources say Rabin has even prohibited the head of the General Security Service from presenting his agency's plans for 1994 to the committee's intelligence sub-

committee, fearing parlia-

It was Mr. Christopher, not

the Lebanese government,

who announced on Thursday

that Lebanon and Syria would

resume peace talks with Israel

in Damascus with Syrian Presi-

He made the announcement

in Washington in January.

Beirut.

Syria's hands.

ly Al Nahar asked.

mentarians would learn what the government has in mind for West Bank and Gaza.

During the past few weeks, several ministers have seen the Beilin-Peres proposals.
Although these ministers ail support some form of territorial compromise in West Bank and Gaza, they were stunned by the plans for a full with-

"When Peres spoke to me about what he had in mind, I nearly fell off my chair." a senior minister said.

At the same time, Rabin has, approved the establishment of a Labour Party committee that will outline government alternatives for a permanent settlement with the

The committee includes senior officials such as Beilin, Deputy Defence Minister Mor-dechai Gur and Labour Party MKs Ori Orr, Ephraim Sneh, and Gedalia Gal.

"Rahin approved this immediately," said a committee source. "He just said make sure that Shimon (Peres) is of the same position. Peres actually was not wild about the

idea."
U.S. diplomatic sources say
Israel has made President Bill Clinton aware of the government's conception of a permanent settlement. The sources say Rabin raised the issue of the Jewish settlements during his meeting with Clinton last month in Washington. The discussions continued during this week's Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren

Clinton, the sources say, bad sought a pledge from Rabin particularly in isolated areas

BRUSSELS (R) - European Community (EC) leaders on Saturday pledged support and funds for Israeli-Palestinian peace and offered to monitor elections in the autonomous Palestinian territories.

dent Hafez Al Assad and in the absence of any Lebanese offi-U.S. officials said Mr. Christopher bad spoken by telephone with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri and did not need to visit

Some newspapers expressed concern that the government was leaving Lebanon's fate in Will Lebanon be able to

reject what Syria agrees on? What could Lebanon do if the peace settlement came at its own expense?" the Beirut dai-Mr. Bouez said Lebanon would only resume talks with Israel on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978, which demanded

the unconditional withdrawal next Monday. of Israeli troops from Lebanon. Mr. Bouez has expressed alarm over a new resolution on the Middle East peace process drafted by the United States. Norway and Russia which does not mention Resolution 425.

"The Washington talks are based on this resolution. If we hear from Washington that it is not possible (to negotiate on the basis of 425), then it is not possible to negotiate, Mr.

ment flatly rejected an announcement by U.S. Secret-

ary of State Warren Christ-

opher that Syria has promised

to help determine the Israelis'

Mr. Christopher had said

Mr. Assad's pledge was an

"important humanitarian ges-

Despite the apparent new flexibility. Sheikh Nasrallah

Saturday reiterated the refusal

by Hizhollah, which opposes

the peace process, to meet any

American officials sent to Syria

and Lebanon to find out the

He said a U.S. administra-

tion "which ignores the fate of thousands of Palestinian and

Lehanese prisoners in Israeli

jails and argues only about the

fate of a few Israeli soldiers is

absolutely not fit to carry out a

to discuss the issue of the mis-

sing Israelis with international

humanitarian organisations

and "friendly forces" - mean-

Hizhollah admits to holding

the remains of two out of six

Israeli servicemen who have

But he said he was prepared

humanitarian role."

ing Syria and Iran.

Israelis' fate.

ture" in the peace talks.

EC pledges support for peace

In a statement at the end of a two-day summit they said the 12-nation community would take joint action to support a peace settlement. strengthen democracy, build regional cooperation and help the Palestinian interim self-gov-

It would "mobilise political. economic and financial" means in the form of common EC action to promote peace in the

The statement came on the eve of a decisive meeting in Cairo between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on conditions for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho region due to begin

EC leaders said they would support the Palestinians through rapid, efficient and transparent implementation of... aid programmes for the development of the occupied

territories, in close consultation with the Palestinians." As the biggest aid donor to the Palestinian territories, the EC said it would also coordinate its economic programmes closely with other donors.

They also said that conclu-

sion of a new trade accord with Israel was an important element in promoting ties between the community and the Middle East region. Israel has an annual trade

deficit with the community of about \$5 hillion, with Israel importing \$6 billion worth of goods and exporting only \$1 billion to the EC.

EC leaders said they were so fied with progress so far on is new accord with Israel, recommended by the European Commission in September this

We approve the essential elements for the negotiations and hope bargaining will begin early in 1994 and will be concluded as quickly as possible." the statement said.

They also supported a proposal to organise an international conference for business leaders to promote big infrastructure projects in the Middle

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou quickly picked up on the idea and proposed the Aegean island of Rhodes to host the development conference on rebuilding. the war-torn Middle East,

"We are putting forward Rhodes to host the conference for the Middle East, if all gives well with the peace talks." he

objectivity in House's approach

AMMAN (Petra) - Parliament will uphold the principle of applying the spirit and letter of the Constitution in its dealings with the govern-ment, Lower House Speaker Taher Al Masri said in a letter addressed to His Majesty King Hussein "We (deputies) promise Your Majesty that the House

will carry ont its legislative powers in neutrality and ob-jectivity," Mr. Masri said. The speaker was replying to a message King Hussein sent to the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday in which the King urged parlia-mentarians to seek objectiv-

ity, truth and credibility in all



Taher Al Masri

"We will always seek your wisdom and directives, since your are, head of the three constitutional powers," Mr. Masri said in his letter.

Mr. Masri pledged, in the name of all the deputies, that Parliament will cooperate with the executive authority on the basis of respecting the Constitution.

We are hut one team... this bomeland is for everyone, and serving it and serving the Hashemite throne are onr main objectives," be

Mr. Masri also pledged to translate the King's words into action by renewing the Jordanian political discourse that is based on the principles of the Great Arab Revolt. "Al Hussein's message is

our message... his objectives are our goals..." Mr. Masri

Christopher heads home saying better Arab-Israeli ties in offing

RABAT (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher left Morocco Saturday bound for Washington at the end of his eight-day peace mission to the Middle

Mr. Christopher visited Syria and Israel twice, Jordan. Egypt. Tunisia and Morocco. He helped broker talks due to take place helween Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rahin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Sunday, a day hefore Israeli troops are scheduled to start withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho. Mr. Christopher also secured a commitment by Syria to return to peace talks with Israel.

Mr. Christopher held talks with King Hassan II of Morocco about the peace process, and said both agreed there was a need to create a climate of confidence in order to establish a comprehensive peace be-tween Isruel and the Arabs.

In Damascus Thursday, Mr. Christopher announced that Syria and Israel would return to the negotiating table in January or February after hav-

(R) — The scheduled start of

Israel's withdrawal from Gaza

first step to Palestinian self-

rule in the occupied territories

Israel and the Palestine Li-

beration Organisation's (PLO)

declaration of principles on

Palestinian self-rule, signed in Washington on Sept. 13, envis-

ages a 10-month timetable

leading up to elections for a

The council will run the

West Bank and Gaza Strip for

an interim period of five years.

during which Israel and the

Palestinians will negotiate a

The declaration offically en-

tered into force on Oct. 13 and

several points have already

- Palestinians started huild-

Israeb-Palestinian econo-

mic cooperation committee set

One point has not yet been

- Jordan and Egypt invited

liaison committee formed.

Joint Israeli-Palestinian

permanent peace settlement.

Palestinian council.

been implemented:

ing police force.

unplemented:

over the next five years.

ing suspended talks in He also announced a summit

next month in Geneva between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Svrian President Hafez Al Assad to give the Israeli-Syrian talks a boost.

Mr. Christopher said one of his goals was to encourage all parties to seek more normal relations between Israel and Arah states.

"I leave here with a feeling that there will be developments in this area in that direction," he said at a news confer-Mr. Christopher said the

question of diplomatic recogni-tion hetween Morocco and Israel was not addressed in the However, Mr. Christopher said afterwards: "I think we

an expect significant confidence-huilding measures over He did not specify what

these measures might be, but a U.S. official in Mr. Christopher's party said both Morocco and Tunisia were good candidates for movement towards normalised relations. "Both in Tunisia and Moroc-

Countdown to Palestinian self-rule

return of Palestinians displaced

from West Bank and Gaza in

1967 (estimated at about

800,000 people including de-

pendents) and measures to

prevent "disruption and dis-

unfold as follows:

December 13, 1993

The timetable is now due to

Israel and Palestinians

sign agreement on Israeli with-

drawal from Gaza Strip and

Jerieho area and detailed

arrangements for Palestinian

Israelis begin withdrawal

- Five-year interim period

- Authority officially trans-

of Palestinian self-rule official-

ferred from Israeli military

government and civil adminis-

tration to "authorised Palesti-

nians." Palestinians will have

authority in the West Bank and

Gaza but it is unclear bow

much they will bave in East

- Latest date for Israelis to

control of the two areas.

from Gaza and Jericho.

ly begins.

Jerusalem.

April 13, 1994

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM to join committee to decide

co. we really see a possibility to take some steps that would begin — not full normalisation. obviously — hut would begin to move toward exchanges that can create a new atmosphere in the relations that many of these Arah countries have with Israel." the official said. speaking on conditions of anonymity

A package of economic cooperation programmes is under consideration, the official said, which would include direct telephone links with Israel, an exchange of business delegations and permission to allow tourists from Israel to visit Arah countries and vice

Both Morocco and Tunisia still honour the Arab economic boycoti of Israel, but the official said they are viewed as moderates in the groups of Arab states that enforce the boycott.

Mr. Christopher came to Rabat after a visit to Tunis earlier on Friday to meet Tunisian officials as well as make the first visit ever by a U.S. secretary of state to the headquarters of the PLO for talks with Chairman Arafat.

Latest date for elections

for Palestinian council. An in-

terim agreement reached by

them will specify its structure

and powers, including its ex-

ecutive and legislative anthor-

ity, arrangements for transfer of authority to council, and

details of independent judicial organs. Palestinians from East

Jerusalem will be able to vote

and perhaps run in elections.

redeploy outside populated

areas in rest of the West Bank

by eve of elections at latest.

Israeli forces will remain re-

sponsible for security of Jewish

- Israeli military govern-

- Latest date for talks to

Permanent settlement takes

start on permanent settlement.

ment withdrawn and civil

administration dissolved.

December 13, 1995

December, 13, 1998

— Israeli military forces will

complete withdrawal.

Russia goes to the polls today

MOSCOW (Agencies) — On the eve of Russia's first post-Soviet parliamentary elections, there was more weakness than excitement on the air, and many people said Saturday they weren't planning to go to the polls at all.

"I won't vote, for the first time in my life. Why should I? There have been no meetings with the candidates, we don't know them," said Zoya, a 61year-old woman selling jars of home-produced honey on a sidewalk. In addition to electing a new

federal assembly on Sunday, Russians will vote on President Boris Yeltsin's proposed constitution, which would streng-then the powers and enshrine the right to private property.

Voter apathy could be disastrous for Mr. Yeltsin, because ratification of the constitution requires at least a 50 per cent turnout as well as a majority vote.

About 107 million Russians were eligible to vote in the elections to the new federal assembly and in the plebiscite to cap Mr. Yeltsin's drive for a strong presidency enshrined in law and for a parliament vested with a mandate to pursue re-

The vote marks a historic step in Russia's crusade to shed its communist legacy and com-es three months after the former hardline parliament staged an armed revolt against Mr.

Yeltsin, bringing the country to the verge of civil war. Millions of Russians, howev-er, sickened by political battles or heeding boycott calls, may decide to stay home Synday decide to stay home Sunday, depriving Mr. Yeltsin of the needed 50-per-cent-turnout.

Fears of a sethack for Mr. Yeltsin's constitutional re-

forms are compounded by the results of the latest public opinion poli revealing strong sup-port for the ultranationalist Liberal-Democratic Party, led by Vladimir Zhirinovksy, whom officials have compared

The survey published in the Financial Times of London as campaign rules prohibit their publication in Russia during the week before voting day predicted that the Liberia Democratic Party would win 14 per cent of the vote and become the second strongest faction in parliament after Russia's Choice — the main

form programme. Mr. Zhirinovsky's growing appeal among voters set off alarm bells among pro-reform parties who asked a media arbitration court to rule as to whether his racist remarks on television were grounds for charges of "stirring up ethnic hatred."

The Kremlin, meanwhile, stepped up its campaign for approval of the draft with a repeat broadcast Friday evening of Mr. Yeltsin's televised appeal for support in the re-ferendum which was first aired Thursday.

Mr. Yeltsin also signed a decree Saturday ordering an increase in pension benefits and extra pay bonuses to policemen, countering the government's a ttempts to cut state spending and reduce the de-

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, recovering from surgery, also stepped into the fray and asked voters in a radio appeal to approve the charter

Japan empress has begun to speak again TOKYO (R) — Japany

Empress Michiko, struck by a mystery ailment that deprived has partially regained her abilher of speech seven weeks ago, ity to speak, the imperial palace said Saturday. "The empress still lacks a firm voice and she admits to great fatigue when she tries to speak land." when she tries to speak loud-ly," said Tokyo University's Dr. Ichiro Kanazawa, who has been treating her. "But her majesty has spoken a few sentences very slowly," Dr. Kanazawa said in a statement issued by the Imperial Household Agency. Empress Michiko collapsed on her 59th birthday Oct. 20 and the first sign pointed to a minor stroke. Later, palace officials said tests showed she had suffered no brain damage. They attributed her inability to speak to deep depression over critical articles in the popular press. Dailies said Saturday that Empress Michiko first broke her silence last Tuesday, whispering 'Heika" (your majesty) to her hushand Emperor Akihito. The couple are currently staying at the imperial villa in-Hayama, southwest of Tokyo.

FBI agrees not to discriminate against gays

SAN FRANCISCO (R) -The FBI agreed not to discriminate against homosexuais in ... a settlement reached with a former agent who alleged he was fired because he is gay former agent Frank Buttino, 48, filed a discrimination sult against the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) after he was dismissed from the FBI's San Diego office in 1990. He was seeking to be reinstated.
Lawyers cut short a trial of the lawsuit, under way in U.S. district court in San Francisco, to announce they had reached a settlement. Under the settlement, the FBI, while not admitting wrong-doing, agreed to formally adopt guidelines "prohibiting discrimination against applicants or employees on grounds of sexual orientation or homosexual conduct among consenting adults in private." The FB1 did not agree to reinstate Buttino, closed financial award, which will allow him to receive a pension. The FBI also agreed to hire Dana Tillson, a former applicant who believes she was rejected for a job in 1988 because she is a lesbian, in the next incoming class of new FBI'

Diana gets emotional send-off

LONDON (R) — A red-faced Princess Diana appeared close to tears when she was cheered and serenaded by well-wishers on the penultimate appearance of her 12-year royal career.
The estranged wife of heir-tothe-throne Prince Charles struggled to maintain her composure and swallowed hard as old-age pensioners launched into a World War II farewell song to mark her looming departure from public life. The 32-year-old princess, who is giving up royal duties from next week in the face of relent? less media attention, was visit ing a South London church and community centre.

Gore's wife will not be anonymous:

WASHINGTON (R) - Prople aren't sure what to call her, since a vice president's spouse has no title, but Tipper Gere doesn't intend to be anony. mous as she accompanies herhusband on his first major foreign trip. When Al Gore departs Saturday for a trip to Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia, his wife will be studying her own set of briefing books to prepare for ## crowded schedule that takes her to mental health facilities immunisation clinics and newly opened Peace Corps offices. "I definitely have an agends of my own," she said in an interview. "I see this as executing that agenda and I hope that will be able to do some good. "It's fashioned around my own. interests," she said, "I want to see what is happening with mental health in Russia and I'm curious about how they are treating the homeless... It's in teresting to talk to people who are over there in these repute lies in this time of great change." Mrs. Gore will benefit from the spotlight that will shine on her husband and give her a chance to be heated on issues even though she has no real title

Husseini says militias to help Palestinian police

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian leader Faisal Al Husseini said Saturday the Fatch group was forming militias to help palestinian police when the self-rule begins next

But the former Palestinian negotiator, named by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat as head of Fatch in the West Bank last week in an unprecedented public appointment, said the ex-guerrilla group had not taken any decision yet on whether to become

political party.
"We are ready (for Israeli withdrawal)," he told Reuters in an interview. "We have the police outside and we have the militias waiting here ready to

Mr. Husseini, said unpaid volunteers made up of Fateh activists from the Palestinian uprising would help the official Palestinian police to keep law and order after Israel withdrawa from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The withdrawal is due to begin in just two days but both Israelis and Palestinians say spiralling violence and negotiating hitches are likely to lead to some delay. They (the militias) are the

forces which were fighting against the (Israeli) occupation. A small part were armed and others were not," he said, speaking in English. "These are the people who organised during the intifada,

they are known to everyone in their areas... there is no need for them to have identity cards," Mr. Husseini added. It was not clear what the

functions of the militias would be or if any of them would be Mr. Husseini gave the ex-ameple of a volunteer force

organised by a local chamber of commerce which took over traffic in the West Bank town of Nablus for about two weeks immediately after the PLO and Israel signed the self-rule agreement in September.

PLO negotiators say they need about 15,000 police in Gaza and Jericho to enforce law and order. About 3,000 have graduated

Most Safeway fire casualties out of hospital

(Continued from page 1)

The civil defence officials said their department conducts regular inspections to check the preparedness of public buildings to deal with emergency situations. They could not confirm, bowever, if the safety systems at the Safeway worked during the fire. saying that investigations will bave to be completed before such conclusions are reached. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, who was on the scene during rescue operations, later urged that all public buildings bave

safety measures in order to

protect citizens and property.

The Masris said their employees, 44 of whom had re-ceived civil defence training, were instrumental in evacuating victims from the building. Eyewitnesses confirmed that Safeway security officers played a major role in helping sboppers, many of them chil-

dren, escape the fire. Only the entrance of the fully-insured building was damaged by the blaze, but shoppers panieked when smoke filled the building and people started shouting that fire had broken out, eyewitnesses had said.

Civil defence sources say they responded promptly to the accident and arrived at the scene about seven p.m., less than five minutes after they were notified, Some eyewitnesses, howev-

er, claimed that firemen did not arrive at the scene until after 7.20 p.m.

Though more than one survivor told the Jordan Times after the fire that people panicked when the lights went off and the main gates of the buildings would not open, Zahi Al Masri, who said be was inside the building, said the doors did open and the emergency lights went on. The intensity of the smoke that filled the store, however, kept the place in darkness, he said. The Masris said that no estimate of the damage has yet been made, but that restoration work began Saturday. The store "will be back in business in a week at the latest."

"The material losses are the least of our worries. What we are concerned with is human life. We thank God that there were no fatalities," said Zahi Al Masri.-

The Masris bought the Safeway from a subsidiary com-pany of the collapsed Petra Bank two years ago at a cost of JD 5 million and turned it into one of Jordan's most successful

Lebanon.

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